



## Calendar

Please note that this calendar is also online at [www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html](http://www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html)

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

**Mar 21 - Barbara Walters** Oscar Night special. ABC 7 PM. Julianne Moore (*The Hours*, *Far From Heaven*), Renee Zellweger (*Chicago*) Nicholas Cage (*Adaptation*)

**Mar 24 & 25 - "You Hear It First Half Hour Special" on T.A.T.U.** (MTV) 3/24 at 12 PM 3/25 8:30 AM and 11:30 PM

**Mar 26 - "Out on Fraternity Row" Speaker (Penn State University - Behrend, Reed 117)** 7 PM. Presented by Trigon. For more info, email Trigon at [trigonpsu@hotmail.com](mailto:trigonpsu@hotmail.com). Speaker, Shane Windmeyer, Co-Editor of *Out on Fraternity Row: Personal Accounts of Being Gay in a College Fraternity* and *Secret Sisters: Stories of Being Lesbian and Bisexual in College Sororities* 7 PM in Reed 117. The event is being sponsored by Trigon, the GLBT group at Behrend. For more info, call Trigon at (814) 898-7162 or email [trigonpsu@hotmail.com](mailto:trigonpsu@hotmail.com).

**Mar 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](http://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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Mar 29 - Members of Syracuse Sting at Penn State Behrend (Erie)** As part of Women's History month, there will be a visit by members of the Syracuse Women's Football Team, the Syracuse Sting. This event is being put on by Women Today and will be held at 1 PM in McGarvey Commons at Penn State Behrend. Free refreshments provided! Members of Women Today will be having a recruitment party at noon be-



**PFLAG members Maureen Koseff, Marcha Vecchio and Millie Vanderhoof with cookies**

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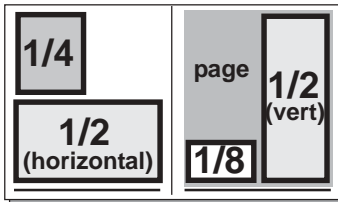
### On the Cover...

**“PFLAG members**

**Photo by Mike Mahler**



## EGN Ad Rates



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Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
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Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto: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 Jeff M, Steve and Paul Grubbs for col-  
lating and Dave S, Paula and Abbey for distrib-  
uting last issue. Thanks! Thanks also to Gary Yu-  
has for proofing.

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

fore the event. For info about this event, contact Carrie Rodgers at crr143@psu.edu. The theme is "Women Still Making History!"

**Mar 29 & 30 - Open Door Retreat (Olmstead Manor, Ludlow PA)** Christian retreat for GLBT people and their friends, families and supporters. See article last issue.

**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 Waetjen Auditorium, 2001 Euclid Ave at E 21st St, Cleveland OH. Tickets available at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) or by calling (800) 766-6048. Single ticket price: \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door.

**Mar 30 - Birthday Party for Sis (Ernie's Mom) (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA)** "Join us Sunday, March 30 at the Village for a birthday party for Sis, Door Person Extraordinaire (from the Zone)... Ernie's mom. Fun starts at 8 PM." For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check [www.thevillageerie.com](http://www.thevillageerie.com).

**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 2 - Pride Erie Picnic organizational meeting (Brian and Larry's, 2018 Poplar St, Erie PA) 7:30**

PM. Volunteer/discussion about the Pride Picnic, which will be held on June 14 at Presque Isle, Beach 11. For more info, see the article on page 15 or contact Michael at [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) or (814) 456-9833.

**Apr 5 - 5th Birthday Party (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA)** For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check [www.thevillageerie.com](http://www.thevillageerie.com).

**Apr 8 - Cher: The Farewell Tour** On NBC 9 PM.  
**Apr 8, 11, and 12 - Sound of Music Sing-A-Long (Mercyhurst College, D'Angelo Music Center, Erie PA)** See Entertainment Notes on page 16.

**Apr 9 - In the Life** WNEB (PBS-Buffalo / Ch.17) 10 PM and 4:30 AM. Double-check listings.

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

**Apr 13 - Jazz Brunch (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA)** For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check [www.thevillageerie.com](http://www.thevillageerie.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 .

**Oral HIV testing now available**

**HIV Clinic**

STD Clinic

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## HIV COUNSELING & TESTING

### WALK-IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

**Erie County Health Department**

**606 West Second Street**  
(Corner of West 2nd & Cherry Street)

Monday 12 noon - 3:30 pm  
Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

### 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  
Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Appointments can be made at the following locations:**

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

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

**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 18 - Drag Performance: Spring Fling! (Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA)** "The Zone is welcoming Spring with an entertaining evening of fun featuring our own **Miss Erie -Michele Michaels** and special guest Onya Marks." For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to [www.zonedanceclub.com](http://www.zonedanceclub.com).

**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](mailto:donjaye@hotmail.com) for details/questions or visit <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

**Apr 19 - Easter Bunny Hop! (Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA)** "The Easter Bunny is coming to the Zone! He's giving away Easter eggs filled with fun and surprises! Come find a 'big basket' or a 'sweet chick' to take home for the evening! You may even get some

candy!" For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to [www.zonedanceclub.com](http://www.zonedanceclub.com).

**Apr 21 - Last Day to Register to vote in PA Primary**

**Apr 26 - Disco Party (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA)** For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check [www.thevillageerie.com](http://www.thevillageerie.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.

**May 3 - Dance Escape - Smoke-Free, Gay/Gay Friendly Event. (Perry-Hi Way Hose Co. 8270 Peach Street Erie, PA) 8 PM - 1 AM.** BYOB and BYOsacks. \$6.00 admission. For more information call Cheryl at (814) 835-9090 or email at [danceescape@earthlink.net](mailto:danceescape@earthlink.net) (CLS Endeavors Inc.)

**May 7 - "Always Our Children" meets.** Catholic Charities, 329 W 10<sup>th</sup> St., Erie PA Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

**May 10 - Menspace meets (Bob's, Erie PA)** Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**May 12 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA)** Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section .

**May 17 - 10% Network meets: Game Night (18 Lakeview Ave., Jamestown NY)** Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or [donjaye@hotmail.com](mailto:donjaye@hotmail.com) for details/questions or visit <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

**May 18 - "PA Civil Rights Initiative" Educational Forum PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets**

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**(Erie PA)** Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See PFLAG article on page 10.

**May 18 - 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 odd months 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

**May 15-25 -13th Annual Toronto Inside Out Film and Video Festival** takes place in Toronto May 15-25. With a couple hundred works of GLBT interest, email [inside@insideout.on.ca](mailto:inside@insideout.on.ca) web [www.insideout.on.ca/](http://www.insideout.on.ca/)

## Area Pride events

**June 8 - Pride Buffalo** Info (716) 879-0999 [info@pridebuffalo.org](mailto:info@pridebuffalo.org) [www.pridebuffalo.org](http://www.pridebuffalo.org)

**June 14 - Pride Erie Picnic** Presque Isle State Park, Beach 11. For more info see article page 15 or visit [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com) or email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)

**June 21 - Pittsburgh Pride Fest** Info [JimF@glccpgh.org](mailto:JimF@glccpgh.org) or [www.glccpgh.org](http://www.glccpgh.org)

**June 21 - Cleveland Pride Parade and Festival** Info [www.clevelandpride.org](http://www.clevelandpride.org). (216) 371-0214

**June 29 - Pride Toronto** For more info: [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com)

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14th & state [www.artaloneendures.com](http://www.artaloneendures.com)

## 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](mailto:rseddig@allegheny.edu)

**Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG)** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. For more info write to 1903 W 8<sup>th</sup> St. Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, browse [www.eriesisters.org](http://www.eriesisters.org) or email [eriesisters@eriesisters.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

*(continued next page)*

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**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/](http://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 ad hoc (call for location/time 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, comfort-

able 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](mailto:cwhite2@alltel.net). [www.gaychautauqua.org/youth.htm](http://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](mailto:trigonpsu@hotmail.com) or at (814) 898-7162 for details.


*Calendar Listings are free!  
To list your event in these pages,  
please submit it no later than the 15th  
of the month*

## Victims events

from Angela Porfilio, CVC

April is a very significant month. April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. April 6-12 has been designated National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The year marked the 23rd anniversary of observing victims' rights and the theme is "Victims' Rights: Fulfill the Promise." The focus is on what we as a nation must do to fulfill the promise to victims of being treated with dignity and respect, of services and support, and of justice for all.

In addition to commemorating victims and bringing awareness to their issues, this is also a time to recognize the efforts made over the years for victims. Over 32,000 laws have been passed at every level of government that promote victims' rights and services. And today, there are more than 10,000 community and criminal justice-based organizations in the United States that provide help and hope to crime victims. Crime Victim Center of Erie County is one of those organizations—reducing the impact of crime through counseling, education and advocacy. For more information, call (814) 455-9414.



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# AIDS Quilt first

## *The first showing of the AIDS Quilt at a Roman Catholic Church in Erie Diocese*

A very significant first occurred at a Catholic church in Erie's Little Italy during World AIDS Day 2002. That important event came and went without publicity, and it really deserves to be acknowledged.

On that day, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church at 16<sup>th</sup> and Walnut became the first church in the Catholic Diocese of Erie to display a panel of the NAMES Project Memorial AIDS Quilt. Jerry McCumber, a parishioner at St. Paul's, sponsored the panel.

"All the Quilt Displays in the area this past World AIDS Day were sponsored and underwritten by the HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of the [Episcopal] Cathedral of St. Paul," said Sue Kuebler, from the Cathedral of St. Paul. "We requested applications from various AIDS Service organizations and individuals who wished to display a 12 x 12 block from NAMES in their facilities. Jerry made application on behalf of his church. Jerry helped me hang a panel in the narthex of St. Paul's and then I went and was available to talk to individuals after their service on Sunday and then to take the panel down."

The panel at St. Paul's Roman Catholic church marks an important first, but the Catholic Diocese of Erie has been involved with HIV/AIDS work and World AIDS Day events for a long time. Catholic Charities has an HIV/AIDS Ministry. There is an HIV/AIDS support group, which has been running for over 10 years. It currently meets at St. Mark's Catholic Center. Catholic Charities also provides case management services for those living with HIV/AIDS. This is handled through the St. Martin Center.

There was a World AIDS Day celebration some years ago that took place at St. Andrews Catholic Church in Erie. Each year, the Bishop and Msgr. McGraw (Executive Director of Catholic Charities) participate in the ecumenical celebration of World AIDS Day that is held in Erie.

*For more information about HIV/AIDS ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Erie:*

Jean Kennedy Keck, Office of Parish Ministry/Respect Life: 824-1254  
St. Martin Center 452-6113

# Michael Dithers

## By Mike Mahler

Hope that everyone is finally enjoying what seems to be a return to temperatures above Arctic levels. As you can see in this month's issue, the annual Pride Picnic is the usual second Saturday in June, and we'd like to make this year's event as much of a success as last year's. If you have suggestions for this year's Picnic that you would like to work on, please join us on April 2 at 7:30 PM.

You have probably heard of the recent survey that found that only 31% of GLBT folks trust the Bush administration to do the right thing about Iraq, as compared with about 60% of heterosexual respondents. I have to admit that I do not find this mad rush to just start whacking folks because it is claimed that they pose some huge imminent threat to be very convincing. How is it possible that the rest of the world, which supposedly also have access to the same intelligence, doesn't see this as being the case. I was also taken aback when Bush said that we were "moving towards a culture of life" when commending about the recently approved by the Senate so-called Partial Birth Abortion ban act. Yeah right, Dumbya. Maybe I would have thought that was a more convincing statement about respecting life if he hadn't been preparing to drop bombs like some sort of frat boy playing video games or hadn't allowed a very high number of executions while governor of Texas. As I write this, Saddam's son suggested that Bush step down. To be clear, Hussein is quite odious, so maybe a good compromise would be for both leaders to just step down and go away. Apologies for the rant.

I would like to thank everyone on the Erie GLBT email list who sent in excellent insights and suggestions about the inservice I am shortly about to do at the Crime Victim Center. One of the things I have always been touched by is how many decent and thoughtful people we have in our community.

If you have a few free moments to drop us a line, it would be helpful to let us know which parts of the newsletter that you use the most. Of particular interest is events that you attend in the calendar. We want to include items that we think at least some people may go to, but don't want to use up space on entries that won't benefit everyone. To get an idea of the geographic area that people interact with would be very helpful. Just email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Thanks!

# Your Health Focus...

## Pap Tests: Not Just for Women Anymore

by Christine D. Hudak, MD

Gentlemen, I promise we will get to you in a couple of paragraphs, but first of all, I'd like to set the record straight regarding pap testing for women. The American Cancer Society recommends testing every one to three years, depending on the woman's history. Lesbians (also women last time I checked) need this important testing, too! So many lesbian women do not have this done, thus increasing their risk of cervical cancer. Let me give you a little background information on why this is relevant.

A pap test is a procedure where a doctor can swab the cervix for a cell sample, which is then sent to the lab for analysis. The point is to look for cancerous and precancerous cells. The earlier these are found, the easier and more effective the treatment is. You see, cervical cancer has no symptoms at all until way too late. So even if "everything seems fine," the screening schedule should continue. Pap testing saves lots of lives – period. One of my patients hadn't had a pap test in 20 years, and when she did we discovered that she had severe precancerous cells on her cervix. I was able to treat this for her, but she needed close follow-up afterward. She said in her butch way, "Man, Hudak, I haven't had a pap test in 20 years, and now I've had twenty in the past year!" All joking aside, she understands getting that simple test saved her life.

It is not well publicized that a sexually transmitted virus, HPV (Human Papilloma Virus), causes abnormal pap smears. HPV can cause genital warts, but the majority of people who have this virus have abso-

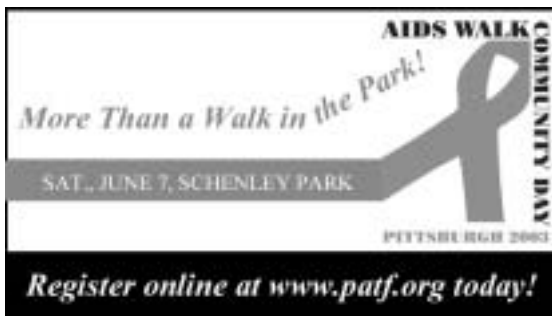
lutely no signs or symptoms. Approximately 50% of the young adult population carries this virus from sexual contact – not just intercourse. This virus is easily passed between any two partners. Cervical cancer, therefore, is a sexually transmitted disease.

Never thought I'd see the day when pap testing was recommended for some men, too! Over the past few years, there has been research regarding men who have sex with men (MSM) having a much higher risk of anal cancer comparatively. The same HPV virus is likely the cause or a strong contributing factor for anal cancer. In HIV-positive men, the risk is even higher as the immune system does not fight off this virus well.

Though it's too early to have national guidelines on this testing, some experts in the field recommend a pap test for MSM at least every 3 years, and for HIV-positive men, every year. To do a pap test on men, the doctor will use a small Q-tip and insert it into the rectum, swabbing the skin there. That's it. Then the sample is sent to the lab on a slide for analysis. Like women, if precancerous or cancerous cells are found, these areas can be treated often before serious problems arise. Though it sounds kind of odd, it really makes sense. If the pap test can save women's lives, it can save men's lives, too. Don't be surprised if your doctor has never heard of this – it's pretty new.

One hopeful thing on the horizon is a vaccine for HPV that is currently in development. Until that time, however, we should keep in mind that screening and early detection are the name of the game when it comes to cancer. In health and happiness... Christine

*Christine D. Hudak, MD is a family physician in Erie. She attended the Ohio State University College of Medicine, and currently works at Hamot, teaching in the Family Medicine residency. She is interested in health issues and education for the LGTB community. Comments about the column can be directed to: Christine.Hudak@hamot.org.*



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



# Books

## ***The Art of Meeting Women: A Guide for Gay Women***

by Rhona Sacks  
(Slope, \$14.95)

[Editors note: Aunt Killer has decided to come out of semi-retirement, so that she may offer instruction to her many followers. Her credits include: Supreme Directress of Aunt Killer's School of Charm for Lesbians; the (very limited release) video Dream Date with Aunt Killer (1995); and the theatrical production Aunt Killer's School of Charm (performed along with the Toilet Brush Two-Step) which in 1997 was the first lesbian theatrical event to take place at the Erie Art Museum Annex]

### **Reviewed by Aunt Killer**

This winter Aunt Killer has been to numerous affairs and events. Good Gawdness, she has witnessed some appalling approach methods.

Whether we are the pursuing or being pursued, we all thrill to the hunt. But it's the way we go about it that bothers her. There are wimmin who are professional wallflowers. They could use a heaping helping of assertiveness training. Then there are wimmin who want to perform a tongue tonsillectomy on you in their office (a.k.a., the restroom). Or how about the woman that boasts about her brand-new three-speed electric hoist complete with a black velvet sling, a full feather rack—and you don't even know her name yet. No wonder it is a challenge for wimmin to meet wimmin. If it is not society making it difficult, we make it difficult, if not bizarre.

Aunt Killer says, "*Look*—we need three things to improve our hunting skills: adequate preparation, new methods and a respectful approach." Aunt Killer, who is always honing her womanizing skills, has read the book *The Art of Meeting Women* by Rhona Sacks.

This book is just the thing to give us gals some polish and finesse. Ms. Sacks assumes that you are just like everyone else, that you are anxious about meeting new people and full of fear about being rejected. Not to worry, she will guide you into a higher sense of self worth and equip you with the confidence you need to go out there and rope you a filly.

The author utilizes a lot of what one could call "therapy methods." But don't let that put you off. She does these self-esteem building practices in a way that is not intrusive or corny. And you get a dollar's worth of therapy for a dime! We have to work on ourselves because, as Aunt Killer says, "nobody wants to buy a car that doesn't run."

In part two of this book, Rhona Sacks suggests different ways to meet wimmin, such as personal ads and dating services. Aunt Killer loves her suggestion that the easiest way to meet wimmin, is to do what you love to do. If you enjoy bicycling, reading, antiquing or SM, the author teaches you how to join or start an interest group in your area. My main criticism of this book is that damn precious little is dedicated to that wondrous tool that is the Internet. Only a page and a half was spent on this subject. Was the author saving this subject for a subsequent book? Perhaps so, but if the author had elaborated on the online dating services and chatrooms, the effort would have made this book a much better resource. Gays and lesbians are using this tool to their

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advantage. Todd Nelson states, “ People who meet through the Internet usually engage in substantial correspondence before they actually meet in person...That means that they already have some idea of what the person is like before they even go on a date. It gives the couple a headstart” —Todd Nelson, director of marketing for Gay11.com, an Internet dating service for gays and lesbians. (from *The Advocate*, February 4, 2003). [www.advocate.com/html/stories/882/882\\_onlinedating.asp](http://www.advocate.com/html/stories/882/882_onlinedating.asp)

Rhona Sacks’ next accomplishment is not only to encourage you to ask a woman out on a date, but to declare that it is a “date.” She says that most wimmin don’t know if they are on a date because of that fine line between friend and girlfriend. If the date should not go as you had hoped, Sacks prepares you for the many possible situations that may arise.

The most wonderful aspect of this book is the importance that it places on respect. Sacks reminds us that all wimmin prefer to be treated with respect and she gently steers us with techniques on how to interact with each other.

So does this receive Aunt Killer’s recommendation? Lawd yes!

We all need help! We have lost our sense of romance. We do not know how to woo each other. Whatever happened to the excitement, the nervous tension of meeting someone new? We have lost that exquisite shimmer on the lake of courting. It begins in the morning of our relationship. It is brilliant and brief and we can miss it like a bus. This book is a very good source for any woman who wants to meet and have relationships with other wimmin.

*Stay Updated...get on the EGN email list*  
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[info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)



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(814) 898-8341

[pflagerie@adelphia.net](mailto:pflagerie@adelphia.net)

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

North Atlantic Transgender Coordinator

# PFLAG News

***PFLAG Activities: Helping Educators and Being Educated***

by Maureen Koseff  
**PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County**

The Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) continues to work with McDowell High School. Their new Gay-Straight alliance has very productive meetings and is building a good rapport with teachers there. They are working to add sexual orientation to that school's 'Harassment Policy'. PFLAG provided stickers for teachers, counselors and staff to post on their offices so that students know they can safely discuss GLBT issues in those offices. There will be special opportunities to get educated at two PFLAG events in May. At our regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 12, we will have a guest speaker. Dr. Ann McDonald, M.D., a psychiatrist, will talk about mental health related to GLBT issues. It should be very helpful information.

On Sunday, May 18th, from 2 to 4 PM, at the Unitarian Church in Erie, PFLAG will host an educational forum. Rita Adessa, Exec. Director of the Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force will talk about the PA Civil Rights Initiative, a grass-roots effort to amend the state's Human Relations Act. The proposed changes affect education issues as well as GLBT issues. It should be very informative. Please keep these two dates open. Meeting Notes: Our next PFLAG meeting is Monday, April 14, from 7 to 9 PM., at the Unitarian Church in Erie (route 97). We hope the spring weather will show up by then and entice many people to attend.



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# Question: Affordable vacations?

*The question for this month that went out to the email list was "With the economy slowing down, people are looking for ways to save money. What's your idea of a good inexpensive vacation? (can be GLBT or other.) (Please note that this doesn't need to involved travel - just what do you like doing for a special leisure activity.)" Here's what our readers had to say.*

In my opinion, a good inexpensive vacation is riding a bike in the country. Good exercise, and a good way of seeing the country. The best bike riding in this part of the nation, is in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York. Pennsylvania provides very good bike ways on Rt 5, and I think along part of the way of Rt 20. [Fred L. May Conneaut Ohio. fred@suite224.net]

How about staying at home with the phone off the hook for the weekend, with your girlfriend. [Suzanne]

Well, the up coming pride picnic would be a good inexpensive vacation. Or taking a walk with my other half, holding hands and enjoying the time we are sharing together ... We also were thinking about visiting some of the Trans houses in New York if we get the time, as well as going to Niagara Falls. It doesn't matter where one goes as long as they can relax and if possible spend time with their other half :) [Joanne Lynn Benjamin garfield25@gay.com]

My Idea of great vacation is quite simple.... If I had a partner I would arrange a quiet camping retreat. I think it is a great way to spend time with a person. To me, what is more beautiful than to wake up with the sunrises, listen the peaceful sounds of the animals and nature talking to you...walk in the beauty that mother nature has provided all around you and to relax by a campfire telling stories or singing songs or whatever you heart desires or to enjoy the breathtaking sunset as the day is gone? Camping is one of those things you can also do with a group of people, and still have your privacy and time to do what you want....I think it can be very versatile. Well, this is all great as long as mother nature doesn't rain on your parade the whole time, but you make the best of it :) [Countrylesbian@hotmail.com]

Camping or a weekend get away to a relaxing place - like an out of town, or even in town B&B. [GNS]

## Info for Gay Muslims

"Al-Fatiha Foundation is dedicated to Muslims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning, those exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity, and their allies, families and friends. Al-Fatiha promotes the progressive Islamic notions of peace, equality and justice. We envision a world that is free from prejudice, injustice and discrimination, where all people are fully embraced and accepted into their faith, their families and their communities. Founded in 1998, Al-Fatiha Foundation is a registered US-based non-profit, non-governmental organization."

Visit them at [www.al-fatiha.net](http://www.al-fatiha.net)

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# March on Washington Anniversary

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by Dee Dee Foll

Even though 10 years has past, I still clearly remember the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights. What an awesome and liberating experience that was. Liberating not just for me but for everyone involved and for our community as a whole. Looking back I can see how the march was the beginning to a huge period of growth and strength for our community.

We had to meet at the Millcreek Mall parking lot at like 11 PM the night before the march. It was April, so the weather was still quite cool at night. Many of us (53, I believe) gathered to board the Anderson tour bus. You know, people were excited. On the bus, folks were wound up a little, talking a lot. Folks who didn't know each other were talking and I believe there was a movie playing in the front of the bus. I don't think any of us really knew what we were about to experience.

It seemed to take a long time to get to DC, and once we were there, we waited.... and waited, to begin marching. The sun was incredibly hot especially because we were not used to the heat yet. Everyone was really antsy...on edge and waiting for the march to be-

gin. Finally, we began to march. As we moved from our starting location out into the streets, I became acutely aware of just how large our community was. We went on for miles! The people! So many people and the diversity in the group was incredible. I mean there were people from every walk of life. And tons of organized groups, including PFLAG. This was really the first time I took notice of how many different types of people were a part of our community. This was an eye-opening experience for me, and as I found out on the bus ride home, for many others as well.

I was also able to see the AIDS Quilt, laid out in its entirety. I was surprised at how emotional I became over seeing this. Suddenly, the reality of HIV and of AIDS hit home. The devastation to humanity was clear. Sadness and grief swept through me. I will never forget how I felt standing there looking at this quilt, knowing each panel represented a human life, and I could not see the end, it went on for miles.

The march inspired many other events in the years to follow. I know I brought home with me a new sense of community and purpose. I felt that it was important to reach out to the rest of the community in general and make an attempt to be heard and to be accepted. It became important to me to take part in helping to stop the hatred and to encourage unity. I became more involved in community events, I came out to friends who didn't already know, I spoke in classes at Edinboro on being gay and I tried to encourage acceptance. I even went on talk radio with a friend for National Coming Out day. The march really made an impact on my life. I think it still does.

Our local community became more active, more groups were started and those already started began to grow. I think the march inspired a lot of people to help our community grow and make changes in how we were being treated. People began standing up for themselves, and as our community became stronger and more unified, that became easier to do. We were developing a support system.

I often times look back, and now it is very easy for me to see how we, individually and as a whole, were affected and influenced by the march. I think the 1993 March On Washington empowered us to grow in the way that we have over the last 10 years. I'm very grateful that I was able to be there and be a part of it.

## We'd like more Erie area March on Washington memories!

On April 25, 1993 the historic March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation took place. In fact, the major reason the Erie Gay News was begun was to organize support for this important event.

Estimates of March attendance ranged from 750,000 to 2 million. An estimated 200 people attended from the Erie area. We would like to post your thoughts and memories and photos from that important event on the EGN website in the History section. It can be a few sentences or something longer. If you know of participants who have since left the area, please let them know we'd like submissions from them as well!

# HIV and Lesbians—How Risky is it?

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

Not too much is made of the fact that HIV is transmitted through vaginal secretions among females who practice unsafe sex. Although the transmission rate is low, it is still serious enough to sit up and take notice.

Four things affect transmission:

1. *Frequency of activity* – how often are you having unprotected sex? Once a week, once a month, once a year, several times a day? The more you do it, the higher the risk of transferring infections from one person to another through vaginal fluids.
2. *Length of activity* – how long does the sex last? Twenty minutes, an hour, several times in one day, once a month, once in a while. This will have a direct impact on the risk of HIV infection.
3. *Force* – how forceful is the sex? Is it considered rough? The type of rough sex that will tear mucous membrane tissue will cause bleeding, an act as an agent for direct transmission of microorganisms such as HIV, or other STDs.
4. *Sexual accoutrements* – what type of toys are you using? Consider that anything you use must be sterilized before and after sexual activities. Some toys need regular cleaning, and personal hygiene is a must. Body piercing, earrings, jewelry, genital piercing, and tongue piercings are all types of sexual accoutrements that need to be monitored during sexual activity. Genital jewelry can rip and tear condoms. Tongue piercings may become infected, even though the tongue has a large blood supply and heals quickly. Consider the fact that the health department does not regulate tattoo parlors.

Be an informed consumer, ask about sterile procedures. Talk to your partner about hygiene, and consider being tested for HIV if you have put yourselves at risk. Finally, use latex dental dams when practicing oral sex, and to cover exposed genitalia to protect yourself from STD or HIV infection.

Call the health department at 451-6700 to schedule an HIV test. The following is an excerpt of a rare case of lesbian transmission. Patty Puline, Health Educator

## Lesbian transmission of HIV: a rare case reported

A rare case of female-to-female sexual transmission of HIV is reported in the online edition of the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, that was published on February 1, 2003. Doctors suggest the woman may have been infected through sharing sex toys after drug resistance tests found striking similarities between the genotypes of the woman and her female HIV-positive partner.

The case concerns a 20-year-old woman, from Philadelphia, who presented with HIV infection after having had a negative HIV test result six months earlier. The woman had been in a monogamous lesbian relationship for the past two years, and denied having had any other sexual partners, male or female. She had never injected drugs or received blood products, and had no tattoos or body piercing.

The couple's sexual practices included the sharing of sex toys, and oral sex. These activities did not

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occur during menstruation, but sex toys had occasionally been used vigorously enough to draw blood.

A medical examination established that the woman was in good health with no evidence of injecting drug use, or nasal damage from cocaine snorting. The woman also had good oral health, which physicians took to mean that oral transmission could be ruled out.

Her bisexual partner was known to be HIV-positive, and is believed to be the source of infection because of similarities observed when the two women underwent genotypic drug resistance tests. The 20 year old woman was infected with multi-drug resistant HIV, which carried the following mutations: T215Y (associated with resistance to AZT, d4T and abacavir), D30N (associated with resistance to nelfinavir), K103N (associated with resistance to NNRTIs), L63P (a polymorphism), V77I (also a polymorphism), and M41L (associated with resistance to AZT and d4T, and with resistance to other NRTIs in the presence of T215Y). Her partner's genotype carried mutations at each of these points, plus M184V (associated with resistance to 3TC).

The investigators note that this is the "first reported case of female-to-female sexual transmission of HIV supported by identification of similar HIV genotypes in the source patient and the recipient."

They conclude that whilst reports of woman-to-woman sexual transmission of HIV are scarce, lesbians in HIV-discordant relationships should be advised regarding safer sexual practices.

## Reference

Kwakwa HA et al. *Female-to-female transmission of human immunodeficiency virus*. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 36, 1 February 2003.

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](http://www.ecdh.org)

## Help for servicemembers

Military personnel who have questions or concerns related to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy can receive free, confidential legal counseling by contacting the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network at (202) 328-FAIR or by emailing [legal@sldn.org](mailto:legal@sldn.org).

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This house was built in 1845 (not documented) by Joel Partridge a builder and lumber dealer. He sold the house to Porter Sheldon in 1871 along with 2 1/2 acres of land. The house has twenty-two rooms, five of which are incomplete in the attic.

This house was left to the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), by Dorothy Tew Johnson in the early 1900's when she passed away. The house was in disrepair for many years when in 1994 it was opened as a decorator's show house. Different designers came in and remodeled the interior, giving the house its present beauty with some Victorian accents.

At present the house has an apartment consisting of eight rooms. There is a beautiful polar (living room), music room with grand piano, grand staircase with stained glass windows, two dining rooms, four bathrooms, DAR library, two kitchens, and three Bed and Breakfast rooms. We offer full breakfasts to our B&B guests. The rooms are available for rent during the season which starts April 1st. each year and closes October 1st.

All during the season, tours are held at the house which includes breakfast, brunch, or lunch. Some tours witness a Victorian fashion show. Our in-house caterer provides the wonderful meals for the tours.

The Bed & Breakfast is presently being managed by Don Johnson, who also books the rooms, parties, weddings, tours and other functions that want to use the facility. Contact numbers for bookings are as follows 716-484-2350 or 716-484-9659 or email donjaye@hotmail.com. If you want to send a fax please call before you try to send the fax so the fax machine will be turned on. Don Johnson is also the events coordinator for the Jamestown 10% Network.

The Partridge-Sheldon Mansion is about 150 years old and is decorated in a Victorian fashion with a mix of some modern furnishings. Visitors are welcome with prior notification, between 8 and 5 PM daily during the open season. During the Christmas holiday we offer a Christmas Show House with each room being decorated, showcasing a different Christmas tree in each room. There are numerous antiques in the house that may interest you. The bathrooms feature

tin tubs and the woodwork throughout the house is very impressive. The large plank floor in the parlor is also an interesting feature.

This mansion has hosted many events and is on the National Historical Registry for the State of NY. This spring a new roof will be put on the house, which is slate.

*.-by Don Johnson*

## Pride Erie Picnic June 14

by Michael Mahler

As was mentioned last month, the 11th annual Pride Erie Picnic is set for Saturday, June 14 from 2 PM to sundown at Presque Isle State Park, Beach 11 Pavilion. Erie traditionally has the picnic the second Saturday in June, and we have been at that location for several years now.

A number of volunteers come together to make the day happen. The first organizational meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 PM at the home of Brian and Larry, 2018 Poplar St, Erie PA. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome to attend!

The Picnic has been a low key and friendly event. We provide burgers, hot dogs, table setting and drinks, and folks bring potluck dishes. (However, even if you don't bring a dish, please come as we have always had more than enough food.)

One very important way that you can help out is with word of mouth and also passing out business cards. We tried that for the first time on a large scale last year and had a record attendance that has 50% larger than the previous year. Coincidence? I don't think so. Because so many of us worked together, we all had a wonderful and successful day. We can use folks to do cooking, shopping, set up, clean up as well. It is really important to us that as many different parts of our community as possible participate.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com. You can see more about the picnic at [www.eriegaynews.com/pride/2003picnic.html](http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/2003picnic.html) on our website.

# Entertainment Notes

by Deb Spilko

As I look over column, on the evening of March 17, I have to say, considering the serious events that will probably take place this week, a lot of it sounds pretty silly.

I wrote much of this column during the month before George Bush's St. Patrick's Day ultimatum about war. I had hoped against hope that our duly nonelected President would listen to the people and nations who wanted him to stop trying to settle scores in such a horrific way. I do not have a crystal ball, so I do not know what the world will be like when this publication is printed on March 19...48 hours after George Bush's ultimatum.

I do not know if, when you read this introduction, things will have changed toward a peaceful solution. I hope so, and hope also that this seriously-written introduction will sound ridiculously overdramatic and outdated at that point.

When this column was written earlier this month, I still believed that things might turn around.

If the sometimes chirpy tone seems out of touch with what the world situation has become, that is why.

Life must go on, and laughter and music happen even during war. But also remember, even now, it is never too late to pray for peace.

## Events

If ever there were a G-rated counterpart to the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* it would have to be the ***Sing-A-Long Sound of Music***, which is coming to the Mary D'Angelo Center for the Performing Arts at Mercyhurst College. The touring *Sing-A-Long* features the 1965 movie musical in full-screen Technicolor with subtitled lyrics so the audience can sing (and play) along. Sing along with Julie, climb every mountain, boo every Nazi, and reel off a few of your favorite things. Although it isn't compulsory, audience members are encouraged to dress as their favorite character or "favorite thing" from the Academy Award winning classic. There will also be a contest for best costume. The *Sing-A-Long* will be at Mercyhurst April 8, 11 and 12. The April 8 Premier is a fundraiser for United Way of Erie County's 2002 Campaign and Success By 6, United Way's early learning initiative. Ticket prices for this Premier event are: Gold Circle - \$20, Adult general admission - \$15, Student admission - \$10 (blocks of 10 or more - \$5 per ticket). Showtime for the Premier *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music* on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> is 6:30 PM. For more information on the fundraiser contact Franco Tompeterini at 456-2937 or franco@unitedwayerie.org. The April 11 show starts at 7 PM and there will be two shows on April 12, at 1 PM and 7 PM. Prices for these shows are as follows Reserved Seating Gold Circle \$20.00; Adult \$15.00; Senior and Student \$12.50; President's Card \$10.00 Youth (15 and under) \$5.00; Mercyhurst Students \$7.50. For information call Mercyhurst at 824-3000.

Just announced: **Christina Aguilera** and **Justin Timberlake** will be performing in these parts this summer. July 28 they'll be at Pittsburgh's Mellon Arena, July 29 at Toronto's Air Canada Centre, July 31 at Cleveland's Gund Arena, and August 1 at Buffalo's HSBC Arena. Two performances of interest at the **Chautauqua Amphitheater**; Chautauqua Institution: **Indigo Girls** August 8 and "**The Music of Abba**" July 18 (tickets on sale April 1).

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***Inherit the Wind*** will be performed at the **Erie Playhouse** April 10-13, 24-27, May 1-3, 2003. Main cast members are Jim Gandolfo, John Kerwin, Mark Tanenbaum.

A couple of perennial favorites will be at **The Tralf** in Buffalo. **Cris Williamson**, who will be appearing at the Tralf April 19 (21 & over show). Williamson was one of *the* pioneers of women's music way back in the mid-1970s. Lesbian comedian and writer **Kate Clinton** will be at the Tralf on June 12. (Clinton's show is 18 & over). For tickets and other info: [www.tralf.com](http://www.tralf.com) (716) 851-8725.

**The Tralf** really does bring in some great acts, but people planning to attend their events should be aware of their unique ticket policy. Visit their website at [www.tralf.com](http://www.tralf.com) to get the story.

Cleveland's G.I.F.T. organization is a gay bowling organization that exists as a social activity group and holds events for fundraising for the Cleveland area GLBT community. Their **Gay/Lesbian Invitational Bowling Tournament** will once again take place at Buckeye Lanes. June 13-15. Also, their **GIFT Cruise on the Goodtime III** will sail the waters of Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River on June 14. For tickets or information for either of these events or on the G.I.F.T. organization itself visit [www.clevelandgift.org](http://www.clevelandgift.org). or call (216) 631-9811.

## Television

HBO will premiere the original movie ***Normal*** on March 16. It is the story of a husband who decides to undergo gender reassignment after 25 years of marriage to a woman he loves very much. Writer and director Jane Anderson says this is not about transgender issues as much as it is a profile of this marriage. "There are so many competent films and documentaries about the transgender experience," she told TV critic Christine Champagne. "I mean this film to be the study of a marriage. In my work now, I'm interested in exploring love, and when you love someone (if you have indeed found your soul mate) how much could you bear them changing on you?" *Normal* stars Roy Applewood and Jessica Lange and will appear on HBO throughout during the rest of March and throughout April.

I watched some of the U.S. TV performances by the controversial Russian act **T.A.T.U.**.....can't believe some of prudish stuff they've had to deal with. Quick catchup for anyone older than, um, okay, any-

one who doesn't keep up...Lena and Yulia are two Russian girls who may or may not be real lesbians but that impression is an important part of their act. They've been very successful here and internationally and controversy seems to follow them, even in some of the more "enlightened" countries. A couple good websites: [www.tatugirls.com](http://www.tatugirls.com) and [www.tatu.us](http://www.tatu.us)

## Film

For almost 20 years, **Paul Schmidt** has been bringing good movies to Chautauqua County and the surrounding area. Often these films—some with GLBT content or themes—never made it to Erie theaters.

His moniker, "The Movie Guy," is well-deserved. "My involvement at Chautauqua [Cinema] began in 1956," says Paul. "As a 9th grader, I began working with my Dad, who bought the business that year and began a long period of renovation. I've been owner since 1985. Movies at the Center (Jamestown) began in 1992, Library Theatre Films (Warren) in 1993, and Opera House Cinema Series (Fredonia) in 1994. These last three theaters are, of course, multiuse performing arts venues with live programming as well as our mov-

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ies. (We) will be opening the completely refurbished 2-screen (first-run and art/independent) Bradford Main Street Moviehouse in Bradford, PA sometime in April with new seats, digital sound, the works!." Since fall, Paul's theaters (the corporate name they all come under is **Uniplex Cinemas**) have shown such films as *Far From Heaven*, *Frida*, the *Shakleton* documentary, and *Bowling for Columbine*. Now showing or coming up are *The Hours*, Pedro Almodovar's *Talk to Her*, *The Pianist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Rabbit Proof Fence*, and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, among others. To get an idea of the variety offered, check the schedule of from the Chautauqua Cinema's 2002 season, which has been left on the website.

To check out monthly film schedules and/or to get on the Uniplex email list (or to read the delightful backgrounds and descriptions of the historic build-

ings the where the films are shown), visit the Uniplex website at [www.uniplexcinemas.com](http://www.uniplexcinemas.com) You can also get information from the Uniplex office in Jamestown (716) 484-1873.

Here are the locations and seasons for each of the Uniplex Cinemas:

**Chautauqua Cinema** (at the Chautauqua Institution Higgins Hall; its season is 7 days a week, mid-June thru Labor Day only)

**Opera House Cinema Series** (at Village Hall, Fredonia; year 'round part-time)

**Movies at the Center** (Reg Lenna Civic Center at 116 E. 3rd in Jamestown ; fall thru spring part-time)

**Library Theatre Films** (302 Third Ave., West in Warren; fall thru spring part-time)

**Bradford Main Street Moviehouse** (Bradford, PA; 7 days a week year 'round).

## Theatre

### ***Gannon's Schuster Theater will present The Laramie Project in April and May***

The story and images surrounding Matthew Shepherd's tragic death are familiar to most gay people. Early one October morning in 1998, a bicyclist riding down a rural road in Wyoming came across a figure tied to a fence. At first the cyclist thought it was a scarecrow, and then realized the figure was a human being, beaten beyond recognition and barely alive. The victim was Matthew Shepherd, a gay college student who had been lured out of a bar by two men who then kidnapped, robbed, and brutally beat him, and left him for dead. He died a few days after the attack. The attackers were caught, confessed to their crimes and received a life sentence. Matthew's father, whose poignant words touched a nation, had asked that his son's murderer not receive the death penalty.

Playwright and director Moises Kaufman was moved by the events around Matthew's death, and decided to explore the story as a dramatic subject. He and members of his New York-based Tectonic Theater Project began talking to residents of Laramie, Wyoming, which had been forced into the spotlight by this terrible tragedy. They made a half dozen trips to the town over a period of a year and a half, and interviewed about 200 different people. Those interviews, as well as reactions and journal entries by members of the theater group, became the basis for *The*

*Laramie Project*. The result was a portrait of a community, which has often been compared to Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*.

Gannon University will be presenting *The Laramie Project* April 24-27 and May 1-3 at the Schuster Theater.

The theme for this year's season at the Schuster Theatre has been "Matters of Faith." The season has explored faith in God, self, justice and with the addition of *The Laramie Project*, faith in humanity. It is also being produced to explore the issues of tolerance on the college campus. There will be other events surrounding this production such as displays of news coverage of this story as well as current cases and statistics about hate crimes. There will also be a talk-back session following one or more of the performances. That specific information will be available at a later date.

*The Laramie Project, by Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project will be performed April 24-27 and May 1-3 at Gannon's Schuster Theater. Showtimes for Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows are 8 PM., with a Sunday matinee at 3 PM. For tickets call the Schuster Theatre box office at 871-7494.*

*-Deb Spilko*

# Resource Directory

*This is an abbreviated listing! For a complete listing, either go to [www.eriegaynews.com/resources.html](http://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](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
 Erie Gay Teens ..... [www.eriegayteens.com](http://www.eriegayteens.com)  
 Gay Chautauqua ..... (877)235-4188  
[www.gaychautauqua.org](http://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

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