



Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

Jul 24-27 - Dancin' Weekend (Cleveland) Weekend of dance parties, benefits the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, Sunday's party kicks off at 1 PM at the Tower City Amphitheater. (216) 357-2223, email jprice@atfgc.org websites: www.aidstaskforce.org or www.erieparty.com

Jul 26 - Car Wash Fundraiser for Erie Pride Weekend (Erie) "We will be having a car wash on Saturday, July 26th, from 10 AM until 4 PM at the Country Fair on Peach and I-90. We need washers and washees. If you can't volunteer to come and wash, please come out and get your car washed." This is a fundraiser for the Erie Pride Weekend, which will run from September 12-14 at various venues. More info about the Weekend is at <http://weekend.eriegaynews.com>. For more information, updated information, questions, comments, concerns, or volunteer offers, call Abbey at the

Trigon office: 814-898-7162. You can also email erierainbowpride@aol.com; "can't wait to see you there!"

Jul 26 - Farewell Michelle Michaels & Onya Marks at the Village (Erie) 133 W 18th St, info (814) 452-0125.

Jul 27 - Good Luck & Goodbye to Dana & Katie at the Village (Erie) 133 W 18th St, info (814) 452-0125.

Jul 29 - Erie County Council meets 7:00 PM Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th Street Erie PA Citizens concerned about the future of the Erie County Human Relations Commission are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Jul 30 - American Masters: The Education of Gore Vidal, premieres on PBS at 10 PM (90 minutes)

Jul 31- Aug 3 - Black Unity Celebration Weekend (Cleveland) Variety of events all over the city: Opening Wine and Cheese Reception, "Night of The Stars," "Girlz Nite Out," House of Rodeo Presents: Holly'Hood, Exchange Conference: Womyn's Empowerment Summit, SWEAT 2K3 Dance Party, BlackOut Annual Community Picnic, Holly'Hood House Ball, Tea Dance Party. Inquire at bucinfo@yahoo.com and they'll forward you a full and detailed schedule. Organized by BlackOut Unlimited, which describes itself as "Cleveland's premier organization serving the African American Same Gender Loving Community."

Aug 1-3 - Toronto Black Pride (Toronto) scheduled to coincide with that city's Caribana Weekend, which is North American's largest Caribbean Festival, so that people who wish to attend both celebrations may do so. Info: torontoblackpride@yahoo.ca



Abbey Atkinson setting up the Pride Weekend information table at the June picnic .

(continued on page 3)

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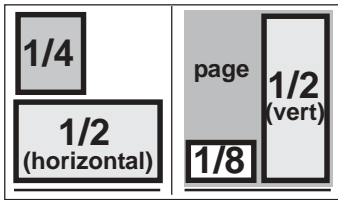
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On the Cover...

**Abbey at info table
by Deb Spilko**



EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
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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
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info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler

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 Matthew Miller, Neal and Deb Spilko for folding and Dave S for distributing last issue. Thanks! Thanks also to Bob for proofing.

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

www.torontoblackpride.com (416) 320-5115 (*appropriate ID for border crossing always required*).

Aug 1-3 - Pittsburgh Black Unity Weekend Aug. 2 All night bowling., Aug. 3 Free, Community Picnic noon 5 PM Schenley Park Veteran's Pavilion, 7 PM - til? Miss Seven Pageant, Hill House Kaufmann's Auditorium. Email: projectseveninc@cs.com (412) 471-8480 www.sevenprojectinc.netfirms.com

Aug 2 - 10% Network meets: Picnic (NY) For more info, Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com or visit <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>.

Aug 6 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Aug 8 - Indigo Girls at Chautauqua Institute (Chautauqua NY) www.chautauqua-inst.org Tickets: tix@chautauqua-inst.org

Aug 9 - k.d. lang in Concert (North Tonawanda NY) New Melody Fair Box Office: (716) 694-2760 Tickets from Ticketmaster.

Aug 9 - Laura Presutti in at Papa Joe's W. 8th & Chestnut 8-10 PM.

Aug 9 - Menspace meets (Bruce's, Evan's City PA) "It is okay to come around 4:00 in the afternoon.

It is Bears in the Woods weekend at nearby Camp Davis, if you would like to go there later in the night. If you want to camp there you should make reservations and go there first to set up your tents." Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Aug 10 - Jazz Brunch at the Village (Erie) - The Village, 133 W. 18th St, info call (814) 452-0125.

Aug 11 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

Aug 11&12 - AMC Project: Gay Hollywood premieres on AMC at 10 PM.

Aug 14-17 - Witness Our Welcome 2003 (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia) Largest gathering of LGBT Christians from Canada and the United States, \$295, \$170 for students and youth, , 866-550-3500, www.wow2k.org.

Aug 15 - 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market at 10th and French in Erie 8 PM to 10:30 PM. "Come join Two Friends and 2 Girls for the kickoff of Celebrate Erie, and for the restaurant's feature night

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Dear Members of the Erie GLBT Community,

As a professional financial advisor, I am well aware of the legal and social realities that affect the GLBT community, and how they can affect you from a financial standpoint. That's why I am proud to be a part of the Erie Gay News, and proud to support the GLBT community here in the Erie Area!

With this in mind I would like to offer as a service to the community a complimentary financial consultation with no strings attached. So whether you are single or in a relationship, whether you have a lot of money or a little, Call me today to set up your complimentary financial consultation.

As an added show of support to the GLBT Community, for everyone who meets with me in August or September I will donate \$25 in your name to your favorite GLBT Charity.

Thanks for helping me help the community,
Wally Billingham 814-454-5856 ext.228

for 'Downtown Fridays.' For more information, email twogirlsalone@att.net."

Aug 15 - Deadline for September Erie Gay News print edition

Aug 16 - Village Masquer-AIDS Benefit Ball (Erie) The Village, 133 W. 18th St, info call (814) 452-0125.

Aug 16 & 17 - Book It! Sale (Erie) "The third annual fundraising event to benefit Crime Victim Center will be held at the agency, 125 West 18 Street. Saturday 9 AM - 2 PM and Sunday 11 AM -2 PM. Books for all ages and interests, games, puzzles, videos, tapes and CDs will be sold. There will be a bake sale, silent auction of nature photographs taken by a local artist, back-to-school basket raffle and live remotes by Classy 100. Please stop by and browse - you never know what you might find!"

Aug 17 - Talent Night at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main (716)484-3220

Aug 23 - Fundraising Party: Karen Morton's 2003-2004 Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA) tour at Two Friends Italian Market 10th & French from 7 to 10 PM. Food, music by 2 Girls Alone, silent auction, raffles, beer and wine all provided for admission ticket (\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.) Tickets available from Two Friends and Nauti-

lus Fitness and Racquet Clubs. For more information see "Community Announcements" page 4 or email sgaia@att.net.

Aug 23 - Melissa Etheridge in Concert (Cleveland OH) 8 PM Scene Pavilion (formerly Nautica Pavilion), 2014 Sycamore, Cleveland, tickets available through Ticketmaster, (216) 241-5555, (330) 945-9400, www.ticketmaster.com, www.hob.com/scenepavilion.

Aug 24-25 - Annual "We are Family" NOCI Picnic (Cleveland) Benefits GLBT and HIV/AIDS organizations. Info at www.noci-online.org 11 AM till 8 PM At German-American Cultural Club, 7863 York Rd., Parma OH. New this year—open to all ages. (16 and under must be accompanied by parent or guardian). Outdoor dancing, entertainment, fashion shows, games for the kids.

Aug 28 - Benefit Concert for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (Pittsburgh) At the Sanctuary, in Pittsburgh's Strip District. Doors open at 8 PM. Cost: \$10. Info commdir@city-net.com (412) 242-2500 ext. 123 See details in "Community Announcements" page 16.

Aug 28 - Sep 1- Asians & Friends International Friendship Weekend (Pittsburgh PA) IFW is a yearly

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*Proudly serving the Gay & Lesbian Community
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convention bringing chapters of Asians & Friends, as well as anyone else interested, from all over the globe together to meet, socialize, and share their insights on their gay and Asian heritage. The weekend consists primarily of gay men, but it is open to everyone. Weekend features workshops, panel discussions, tours, dinner/dance boat cruise, Mr. and Miss IFW Pageant, plays and receptions. Info: Paul Alarcon at (412) 521-5451 or email afpgh@hotmail.com or www.afpgh.org.

Sep 3 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Sep 6 - Laura Presutti at Aromas 7-9 PM 2174 456-5282.W. 8th

Sep 8 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

Sep 11 Laura Presutti at Penn State Behrend 5 PM-6:30 PM

Sep 12 - 14 - Erie Pride Weekend (Erie PA) Various venues. See details page 13.

Sep 12 - PFLAG Bingo Fundraiser (Erie) Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New

Perry Highway, Erie PA 6-9:30 PM. Part of Erie Pride Weekend, September 12-14. Fundraiser for PFLAG at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. For more info, contact Maureen Koseff at (814) 898-8341 or pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Sep 13 - Ohio Lesbian Festival (Kirkersville OH) The one-day affair has music, workshops, games, merchants, and lots of activities and entertainment. Check their website at www.ohiolba.org


Sep 13 - State Conference on the Transgendered (Pittsburgh PA) The Pittsburgh Transsexual Support Group (PTSG) announces the first-ever State Conference on the Transgendered on 1 PM Saturday 13 September 2003 at the Gemini Theater in Pittsburgh. Free to public. Details p. 16. Also mariatv77@hotmail.com or 412-661-7030.

Sep 13 - Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's W. 8th & Chestnut 8-10 PM

Sep 14 - Jazz Brunch at the Village (Erie) - The Village, 133 W. 18th St, info call (814) 452-0125.

Sep 21 - Dr. John Carey Mem. AIDS Walk (Cleveland)

Oct 12 - Fall Boat Ride (Pittsburgh) More details next issue.



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 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
Cory 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)

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. Info: 1903 W 8th St. Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, browse www.eriesisters.org or email eriesisters@eriesisters.org.

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. *On hiatus for the summer.* Info Gerry Hoffman at (814) 732-2813 or ghoffman@edinboro.edu.

Mercyhurst Rainbow Club Student/faculty group open to non-Mercyhurst folks as well. *On hiatus for the summer.* 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) (W NY) 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) *On hiatus for the summer.* Info Jeff or Danielle/Trigon at trigonpsu@hotmail.com or (814) 898-7162.

Erie County HRC update

Dear Friends of ECHRC:

The Human Relations Commission has been asked to attend the County Council Meeting Tuesday, July 29 to give a report on the Commission's future.

The Commission Chair, William McCarthy is preparing a pro-forma business plan that includes income from HUD, the City and County. The expenses relate to a proactive, three person staff who will carry on the work of the Commission and have a greater role in community education through workshops.

To meet HUD funding requirements, the existing Ordinance must have six technical changes to become "substantially equivalent" to federal Fair Housing Law and thus qualify us for a non-competitive grant of \$115,000 per year for three years.

The Commission would also like additional technical changes related to a "Panel Advisor," "Powers and Duties," and religious exemptions. In view of the much lower funding role of the County, the Commission should become truly independent with the power to hire and fire its own staff similar to the EC Convention Authority. Because it is a judicial body, it should have such independence.

This is your continuing opportunity to demonstrate your organization's support for a Human Relations Commission of Erie County that protects all of us.

**Reid McFarlane, Chair
ECHRC Advisory Board**

Erie County Council meets

Tuesday, July 29

7:00 PM

Erie County Courthouse

140 W. 6th Street

Erie PA

Citizens concerned about the future of the Erie County Human Relations Commission are encouraged to attend this meeting.

PFLAG News

by Maureen Koseff
PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

Pride Weekend: PFLAG is participating in Pride Weekend with two events. Everyone is welcome to participate. On Friday, Sep 12, 6-9:30 PM., at the Unitarian Church, we are holding a bingo fundraiser, complete with dinner to purchase and hopefully with drag queens to entertain us — and loads of fun and prizes. (Anyone able to get gift certificates from any business establishment, please do so and give them to Maureen Koseff before Sept. 10). Please come show your support for PFLAG programs. PFLAG will march as a group at the pride march and rally on Sat., Sep. 12. Please come, find our PFLAG banner and join us. We will have an info table at Perry Square.

What are PFLAG programs? Our June 11th speaking engagement at the Erie County Social Services Dept., Office of Children and Youth, was attended by about 35 social workers. They were very pleased with our presentation, and stated that they became aware of a lot of information about GLBT issues that they weren't aware of before. We hope this will help them help GLBT youth when they are involved in their casework. We will continue to nurture this relationship with the Office of Children and Youth.

This year we are concentrating on increased contacts with high school and college youth, hoping to set up some pizza parties (in conjunction with the Erie County Health Dept.) this fall and next spring. We will continue the "From our House to the Schoolhouse Campaign" at McDowell High School, and to do planning for initiating it in other schools.

We are setting up a library of GLBT-related materials, with grant money from the Erie County

Health Dept., and will be seeking volunteers to be present for our library's "open hours". You will be hearing more about that soon. The library will be open to the public.

We continue to offer our regular support group meetings, straight-spouse network meetings, and our transgender network continues to be going strong. We hope to initiate some opportunities for GLBT people from Meadville and other Crawford County areas to attend meetings in Meadville. We will continue political action, particularly this fall, when the Erie County Council votes on the budget and whether to fund the Human Relations Commission; and to pass bills in the PA State legislature that amend the PA Human Relations Act and the Fair Education Act. One thing all of you can do before the fall is to write to County Executive, Rick Schenker, and tell him we need to keep the Erie County Human Relations Commission. Don't wait till the council votes on the budget to let him know your views. He has stated that he gets letters from

(continued next page)

Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

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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*



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PFLAG

(continued from previous page)

people who agree with him, but not many from people who want to retain the Commission. Please let your voice be heard. The letters do count. Unfortunately, absence of letters counts also!!!!

Meeting Notes: Our August PFLAG support group meeting is Monday, Aug. 11, 7-9 PM, at the Unitarian Church, Route 97, Erie. (Take I-90, exit 27, turn onto Route 97 North. Church is about half mile on left). Please contact Maureen if you want to attend a straight spouse support meeting, or if you have questions about any of the above information. (Contact us at (814) 898-8341; pflagerie@adelphia.net)

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.

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Event celebrates Court decision

Celebration/protest at Santorum's Erie office

ERIE, July 3—The Independence Day weekend was kicked off with a celebration and protest outside Senator Rick Santorum's office on July 3.

The cause for celebration was the June 26 landmark decision by the US Supreme Court, which struck down the Texas sodomy law as an unconstitutional violation of privacy.

Cities all over the United States had held similar celebrations the day of the ruling. "We held the demonstration on the eve of Independence Day celebrations because the Court's decision underlines the essential equality of all Americans, a principle that is grounded in the Constitution and revered by all Americans," said David Martin, organizer of the event.

The demonstration took place at Sen. Santorum's office on West 26th Street, to protest his anti-gay remarks. "When individuals, like Santorum, indulge in hate speech decrying the Court's decision, they are in fact indulging in demagoguery that is both unpatriotic and un-American and certainly unworthy of one who has sworn to uphold the Constitution and the best ideals of the American people," said Martin. "It's noteworthy that this Court, conservative by any standards, is able to recognize and affirm a very simple Constitutional principle that bigots like Santorum wish to deny: All Americans are equal under the law."

The demonstration drew a diverse group of gay people and straight allies. Participants held signs and chanted slogans, like "No more hate in the Keystone State."

The *Erie Times-News* and WJET-TV covered the event.

Stay updated!

Sign up for the Erie Gay News email list

at www.eriegaynews.com or email info@eriegaynews.com

We respect your privacy. List is never sold or shared

National News Briefs

by Bob

Supreme Court Makes Landmark Ruling

Some legal scholars are calling it the “Magna Carta” of gay rights, while others compare it to such landmark rulings as *Roe v. Wade* and *Brown v. Board of Education*.

On June 26 the U.S. Supreme Court struck a death blow to state sodomy laws by declaring Texas’ law unconstitutional. The case of *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas* centered around two Texas men who were arrested for having consensual sex in their bedroom. In a 6-3 ruling, the high court said the two men, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, “are entitled to respect for their private lives.”

“The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime,” wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy in the majority opinion. The ruling nullifies the remaining sodomy laws in 13 states and overturns the 1986 Supreme Court ruling of *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

While Kennedy and the Court majority expressed strong support for the right to privacy for gays and lesbians, the Court minority was equally vocal.

Justice Antonin Scalia, the Court’s leading conservative, blasted the Court’s majority for “taking sides in the culture war” and for having “largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda.” Scalia went on to say that most Americans “do not want persons who openly engage in homosexual conduct as partners in their business, as scoutmasters for their children, as teacher’s in their children’s schools or as boarders in their homes.”

The Lambda Legal Education and Defense Fund, which represented the two Texas men, said the ruling “starts an entirely new chapter in our fight for equality for lesbians and gay men.”

Another Pro-Gay Ruling

One day after striking down sodomy laws, the Supreme Court instructed the Kansas Court of Appeals to revisit an earlier case that raises the issue of discriminatory treatment of a gay man.

The court vacated the decision in the case of Matthew Limon, a teenager who received a 17-year prison sentence for having consensual oral sex with a younger teen. A Kansas court upheld the sentence and the Kansas Supreme Court declined to intervene.

Although the Supreme Court declined to accept the case for review, the Justices’ message to the Kansas court one day after the Texas sodomy decision was clear: Reduce the sentence.

Conservative Talk Show Host Axed

MSNBC has fired right-wing commentator Michael Savage for anti-gay comments he made on air to a male caller. The well-known and controversial radio talk show host who does a weekend TV show for the cable channel, asked the unidentified caller if he was gay. When the caller said yes, Savage referred to him as a “sodomite” and added he should “get AIDS and die.”

MSNBC spokesman Jeremy Gaines called Savage’s comments “extremely inappropriate” and added that the cable channel’s decision to fire Savage “was an easy one.”

Marriage information

Important information for persons considering getting married in Canada:

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto

Visit their website for helpful information on same-sex marriage, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. Also addresses concerns of persons who don’t live in Canada.
www.mcctoronto.com/

Thinking of Getting Married in Canada?

is a joint advisory put together by a number of US GLBT groups. Visit www.freedomtomarry.org
Click on “Breaking News”

(continued next page)

Marriage Amendment Introduced

A Joint Resolution has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would add an amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbidding same-sex marriages. House Joint Resolution 56, more commonly known as the Federal Marriage Amendment, is being opposed by both the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) and the Log Cabin Republicans.

The NSD has gone so far as to announce it will not support any member of Congress who signs on to the proposed amendment. As yet, the Log Cabin Republicans have not gone that far, although they are actively lobbying against the resolution.

A similar resolution has not yet been introduced in the U.S. Senate, although Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) says he supports the amendment.

Town to Fly Pride Flag

The rainbow Gay Pride flag is flying at the municipal building of Lakewood, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb. In June, the Lakewood City Council voted to fly the rainbow flag on the same municipal flag pole as the American flag and the flag honoring POWs and MIAs. However, after many protests from residents, the city decided to erect a separate flag pole. Mayor Madeline Cain said the new flag pole will allow the city to fly the rainbow flag and the flags of other groups seeking special recognition.

IBM Seeks to do Business With Gay-Owned Companies

Computer giant IBM has announced that it is actively seeking gay-, lesbian-, bisexual- and transgender-owned businesses to purchase goods and services from. IBM, a longtime leader in diversity issues, wants to diversify further by adding additional GLBT-owned businesses as vendors. The company currently works with 30 GLBT-owned businesses and wants to increase that number to 250 by the end of the year.

Supreme Court Quotes

Various quotes about the recent Lawrence V Texas decision:

“A law branding one class of persons as criminal solely based on the State’s moral disapproval of that class and the conduct associated with that class runs contrary to the values of the Constitution and the Equal Protection Clause, under any standard of review. I therefore concur in the Court’s judgment that Texas’ sodomy law banning ‘deviate sexual intercourse’ between consenting adults of the same sex, but not between consenting adults of different sexes, is unconstitutional.”

— **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor**, in her concurring opinion on *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas* June 26, 2003.

“On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court closed the door on an era of intolerance and ushered in a new era of respect and equal treatment for gay Americans. This historic civil rights ruling promises real equality to gay people in our relationships, our families and our everyday lives.

“This ruling will impact the sodomy laws in all of the states that still have them — but its impact is even broader. It will be a powerful tool for gay people in all 50 states where we continue fighting to be treated equally.

“For decades, these laws have been a major roadblock to equality. They’ve labeled the entire gay community as criminals and second-class citizens. On June 26, the Supreme Court ended that once and for all.

“This ruling starts an entirely new chapter in our fight for equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.”

— **Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director Lambda Legal**

“The court has determined to slide down the ‘slippery slope,’ “

- **U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA.)**

Your Health Focus...

Body Image

by **Christine D. Hudak, MD**

It's sad to think about how many people are unhappy with their bodies. Once thought to be the territory of straight women alone, negative body image affects the LGBT community significantly. There are many facets to this broad topic of body image, so I will focus on some general concepts. (Addressing issues specific to adolescents, transgendered persons, the disabled and seniors could each be a separate article!) More importantly, I will also offer some positive alternatives to the harmful self-talk.

How did we get to this place of hating our bodies? There are a lot of historical and cultural factors, but at this point I can safely say that the main perpetrator of this poison is the media. Who can get away from the images of the buff, thin young man with the six-pack abs in the men's magazines? What about the "fashion" advertisements that feature ultra thin supermodels? (I read somewhere that these women were perfect human "hangers" for the clothing.) Historically, heterosexual women responded to these images by trying to conform to an impossible standard of beauty. They bought fashionable clothes and beauty products, dieted, exercised, starved, binged and purged in the context of self-loathing unless the ideal could be obtained. Some developed clinical eating disorders of anorexia or bulimia. Very little scientific study has focused on sexual orientation and body image, but what is available suggests a sobering picture.

Gay men have a higher incidence of body dissatisfaction and eating disorders than straight men. This translates into an overemphasis on physical appearance linked to self-esteem. They feel pressure to

diet or exercise excessively, whiten their teeth, color their gray hair, obsess about penis size, or consider plastic surgery instead of accepting that our bodies do change over time. I am not referring to those who want to remain fit; I am referring to men who suffer psychologically because they don't feel they measure up. One interesting theory for this disparity is that gay men and straight women have something in common; they are in competition to attract men as sexual partners, and men tend to place a great deal of importance on appearance when choosing a mate. I realize these are broad generalizations, but it does give one food for thought. (Pun intended.)

Thankfully, lesbians are beyond all this nonsense – right? Not necessarily. In a few studies that have been done, lesbians have shown about the same amount of body dissatisfaction and disordered eating compared to heterosexual women. Other studies support that lesbians may have less body dissatisfaction and disordered eating comparatively. One study reported more binge eating disorders in lesbians than

(continued next page)



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Health Focus... *(continued from previous page)*

heterosexual women. Curiously, another study broke down gender-related qualities and found that lesbians had less disordered eating and body dissatisfaction in general. But those who identified more with the “negative female traits” (such as passivity, dependence, submission) scored higher on these scales. If the data seems confusing, it is. This is because it is based on very few and not ideally designed studies. Certainly more research is needed in this area.

And now the dirty little secret behind all of this ...we are doing it to ourselves. If we buy into the unhealthy societal standard, we set ourselves up for disappointment in the special gift of our human bodies. So we have to turn this negative thinking around. Recommendations I have come across include focusing on reprogramming your damaging self-talk with repeating 3-5 good qualities about yourself instead of verbally trashing yourself. (You know this, right? Now it's time to do it!) Spend less time in front of the mirror and even less on the scale. Try to eat healthy and exercise with a focus on fitness, not pounds. Wear clothes that are comfortable and make you feel good – not ones that hide your body. Spend time developing hobbies and relationships that boost your self-esteem. There are many other good ideas – check them out at www.bodypositive.com and www.something-fishy.org.

One other way we can fight this battle is activism. When you see ads that display unhealthy appearing models as glamorous, write the company or the magazine and complain. Educate yourself on the ways the media promotes this unrealistic message– a cool site is www.about-face.org, which gives both positive and negative examples of advertising. Spend your money with those companies that promote a healthy body image.

Most importantly, let's all understand that we do have a choice in formulating our own definition of what is beautiful. Let's not waste more precious time putting ourselves down when we could be celebrating.

Wishing you 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 LGBT community. Comments about the column can be directed to: Christine.Hudak@hamot.org.

Media

WKJCE radio

My name is Joanne Lynn Benjamin. My radio station, WKJCE, started in 1985, in Phoenix, Arizona. When I started the station, I played all sorts of music. I played everything that anyone requested. Then it wasn't necessarily GLBT. Then from 1995-1999 I worked with web hosting. In 1999 I started in radio again in Oil City, Pennsylvania. This was when it became GLBT/other artists. From 2001-2002 I was out of the radio business. In 2002 I met my current significant other, Julie Spencer. We started WKJCE up again on the Internet radio. We play anything and everything, but we are based on GLBT music. If you want to listen, the station address is www.live365.com/stations/wkjce. We also broadcast a show called *Gender Talk*, a show that talks about transsexuals as in the first person. WKJCE is also active in the rights of GLBT people. We hope to spread the word that GLBT is acceptable and diversity rules! We should all live as one and stop judging each other. That is our biggest mission. Thank you, Joanne Lynn and Julie Spencer

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Erie Pride Weekend Sep 13 & 14!

By Abbey L. Atkinson

Although Erie, PA may be a bit smaller, a bit more suburban, and a bit less populated than many proud cities, we have a lot of GLBT citizens waiting to waive their flags in the heart of downtown. Because Trigon, Penn State Erie's GLBT & Straight Allied student organization recognizes that fact, we're going to do it! Starting at 1 PM on September 13th, we'll be waiving our flags through the streets during an Equality March from The Village Supper Club, 133 W. 18 St., to Perry Square. And at 2 PM, we'll be rallying at that same park (Perry Square.) There will be food, fun, games, and entertainment to be enjoyed by all. If you're looking for more than a good time, there will be various speakers and educational outreach booths. If you happen to be recovering from a wild night at the kick-off party on Friday, you can find a tarot card reader or a quiet art exhibit to focus on. If you happened to miss that party, you can take your aggression out on a rock climbing wall or dunk your bartender that you'd most like to see soaked. There will be both Drag Queens and Kings, a live DJ, on site piercing and tattooing, carnival games with some unique prizes, henna artists, caricatures, and so much more! Browse the items for sale, scope out the Chinese auction table, bring lawn chairs or a blanket and enjoy a lunch in the park with some colorful people, seek information about where to volunteer or how to become active in the fight for equal rights, or just stand proud with us. And when we can stand it no more, we will have another Pride Party that night.

We have enough continued spirit to play an intense softball game in which drag queens will have the chance to design some fabulous sporting outfits! (But are they willing to slide their sequined gear in the dirt to prevent the dykes from scoring again?) Yes, on Sunday, September 14th, the fun continues with "Dykes vs. Drag Queen" softball game in Haggerty Field at 11 AM. Last year, the queens kicked some *ss, but will the Erie womyn be so disgraced again? At this must-see event, bring the family along because as you fully

enjoy watching the "sports," the kids can hang out in the play area, crafting corner, or socialize at the juice bar. And because the cheerleaders will be looking for audience participation (like you could stand to resist cheering the local queens on anyway), we need to fill those bleachers! Following the game, The Village Supper Club will be hosting a jazz brunch at 1 PM to wrap it all up, wind down, and enjoy some fabulous mimosas.

PFLAG will be hosting another outrageous event; BINGO! The Queens will be calling the numbers, selling your instant winning tickets, and "assist-ing" all your number playing needs. This is scheduled for Friday, September 12 from 6 to 9:30 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA.

For more information, updated information, questions, comments, concerns, or volunteer offers, call Abbey at the Trigon office: 814-898-7162. You can also email erierainbowpride@aol.com; can't wait to see you there!

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**Deadline for next issue
August 15**

PA State news

Gov. Rendell appoints Stephen A. Glassman as state HRC Chair

HARRISBURG, PA (July 14, 2003) The Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition announced today that in July of 2003 Stephen A. Glassman was appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell as Chair to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Glassman is the first openly-gay individual ever to receive a statewide appointment subject to Senate confirmation to a Pennsylvania board or commission. Stephen has been a tireless advocate over many years for inclusive civil rights legislation for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in Pennsylvania and was instrumental in the passage of HB 1493, the historic "Hate Crimes Bill", which was signed into law by Governor Schweiker in December of 2002.

"Steve has built a national reputation for his work on behalf of human rights and he has served the Human Relations Commission with distinction since his appointment in May of last year," the Governor said. "I'm proud to announce that Steve will now serve as Chair of this important commission, as I have the highest confidence that he will lead it with the excellence with which he has previously served."

"I am honored by the Governor's confidence in my ability to lead the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission," Glassman said. "And I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners and the PHRC's outstanding staff as we advance the cause of civil rights for all Pennsylvanians."

The commission was created in 1955 to investigate bias complaints in housing, employment, commercial property, public accommodations, and education. It can order monetary damages for complainants, and enforce those orders in Commonwealth Court. The 11-member commission investigates bias complaints on the basis of race, color, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age, sex, national origin, and use of a guide or support animal.

Stephen A. Glassman, AIA has practiced architecture as the principal of his own firm (Art and Architectural Design) for 25 years throughout the United States. Since graduating with highest honors from Brown and Yale Universities with advanced degrees

in architecture and art history, his residential and commercial design work has appeared more than 100 times in national publications, and he has won numerous awards and citations for his professional work. He has lectured extensively at conferences, museums, and universities across the country, and has served as a director on numerous boards of arts and civil rights organizations. In addition he has appeared as a media spokesperson on television, radio, and in the press on behalf of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender civil rights causes, architecture and design, and AIDS issues. He has also appeared with Martha Stewart on *CBS This Morning* and as a guest on other TV talk programs.

Glassman was the first openly-gay political appointee in Baltimore, MD where he served for five years as Civic Design Commissioner under Mayor Kurt Schmoke. He has served on a wide variety of national, state, and local boards including the ACLU, the Human Rights Campaign, the LGBT Community Center of Baltimore, the Names Project, and the Yale University LGBT Study Center among others. He currently resides on a farm in New Oxford, Pennsylvania, facilitates and chairs the board of the Common Roads (Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Youth) support group in Harrisburg, and co-chairs the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition (SPARC), the largest group in the state working to achieve equal rights legislation on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

For information on the state Human Relations Commission, visit www.phrc.state.pa.us/ For more information about SPARC please visit www.sparc-pa.org.

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NY State bills

Information from Empire State Pride Agenda

There was a flurry of activity in the New York legislature before the end of this session. Printed here are the most recent developments. A summary of the state's legislative activity of interest to LGBT New Yorkers can be found at the Pride Agenda's website at www.espany.org

Legal protection for LGBT youth

In the closing days of the session, the Legislature approved **A.7517/S.281**, a bill that requires all colleges and universities to address the issue of **bias crime on campus**. (See June 19, 2003 press release on the Pride Agenda website for more details) Now pending the Governor's signature, the legislation calls for colleges and universities in New York State, both public and private, to inform every incoming student about bias crime and the policies in place regarding bias crime. Bias-related crimes are defined as those that are recognized in law under the Hate Crimes Act of 2000, which covers hate-motivated crimes based upon race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation. The bill also allows colleges to go further than state law in the types of bias crimes addressed, which for instance could include crimes based upon gender identity and expression. This provision was one the Pride Agenda fought hard to maintain in the version approved this week by both chambers, despite some opposition to it.

The Pride Agenda fell just short of having the Legislature pass its top legislative priority, the Assembly version of a safe schools measure called the **Dignity For All Students Act (A.1118)**, which requires public schools, K - 12, to recognize and address bias-related harassment and violence. After the Senate passed an alternative version, the two groups got together to work out differences. Talks broke down over the Senate's unwillingness to include "gender identity and expression" as one of several protected categories schools would be required to recognize when developing plans to combat bias behavior. (See June 25, 2003 press release on the Pride Agenda website for more details.) On a positive note, the Pride Agenda has received a commitment from the Senate to continue working on the issue during the off-session.

Recognition of relationships and family

In the closing hours of the session both chambers unanimously approved a measure (**A.5342/S.5590**) that gives **domestic partners**, both same-sex and opposite-sex, **of credit union members full access to banking services**. (See June 20, 2003 press release on the Pride Agenda website for more details.) The bill awaits the Governor's signature.

Late in the session there was also an effort to pass **A.3129** which gives **domestic partners the same priority status as surviving spouses** to control the disposition of a partner's bodily remains. The Senate expressed an interest in taking up the issue at the same time it appeared the Assembly might conclude its work on A.3129. Unfortunately, questions in the Assembly about how the bill might affect Jewish burial traditions slowed progress and time ran out before the Assembly could vote on the measure. However, the Pride Agenda received a commitment from the Assembly to work on A.3129 during the off-session, which means the momentum that is building around passage will not be lost.

Civil Rights of LGBT New Yorkers

On the civil rights front, the Legislature followed through on a promise it made in statute in 2000 to remove the **last vestiges of language stigmatizing homosexuality** by passing a bill (A.9116/S.5690) eliminating the terms "sodomy" and "deviate sexual intercourse" from the state's criminal code. The Governor has agreed to sign the bill when it reaches his desk. For decades, New York categorized sexual assaults into rape and sodomy. By definition, the crime of rape arises out of "sexual intercourse" and the crime of sodomy arises out of "deviate sexual intercourse," defined by statute to include both oral and anal sex. Victim and gay rights advocates have long objected to this terminology. (See June 19, 2003 press release on the Pride Agenda website for more details.)

Founded in 1990, the Empire State Pride Agenda is New York's statewide, non-partisan lesbian and gay civil rights and political advocacy organization.

Community Announcements

Fundraising Party for Karen Morton August 23

The interest in women's professional sports continues to grow in America, helped along by the visibility of top athletes such as the Williams sisters, Mia Hamm, Cheryl Swoopes, and many others. Of local interest is yet another professional athlete, Erie's own Karen Morton. Karen, as local sports enthusiasts may recall, was a long time standout in both the academic and recreational arenas as an MVP in almost all of the sports she played, softball in particular.

Karen began competing on the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA) tour with her first attempt at the U.S. Open, which was held in Memphis in November 2002. She played in several cities on the tour, and ended the 2002-2003 season ranked twenty-fifth. Her goal for the 2003-2004 season is to make it into the top 10.

The 2003-2004 season begins in Rosarito Beach, Mexico in September. As with many sports, there is little financial support for women on the LPRA tour. Lack of commercial sponsors is a primary reason why prize money is less substantial for the women than the men. Only the top 4 players receive enough prize money to offset their expenses. Competitors must pay their own expenses to reach LPRA events, at an estimated cost (for Karen) of \$8,000 for the 2003-2004 season. In order to help Karen to get to all of the LPRA stops and begin her climb to the top 10, the Erie community is invited to attend a Fundraising party at Two Friends Italian Market (the restaurant at 10th and French in Erie, in front of and attached to the parking ramp) on Saturday August 23, 2003 from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The event will feature live music from 2 Girls Alone, a silent auction by Patricia Gold, various raffles, and wonderful food and drink provided by Two Friends. Beer and wine will also be provided. Admission tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Nautilus and Two Friends Italian Market. For more information email sgaia@att.net.

State Conference on the Transgendered

from Pittsburgh Transsexual Support Group

The Pittsburgh Transsexual Support Group (PTSG) announces the first-ever State Conference on the Transgendered on 1 PM Saturday, September 13, 2003 at the Gemini Theater in Pittsburgh. The conference is free to the public. The aim of the conference is to bring together the transgendered, health-care and academic professionals, members of the GLBT community, and other interested individuals or groups to discuss the state of the Transgender population in Pennsylvania. We welcome any speaking proposal. Speaker blocks are available in twenty minute time slots, and the content should be aimed at providing some sort of survey of the State's transgendered community. In addition to the Conference, which will run from 1 - 5 PM, PTSD member Mahogany, Ms. Pittsburgh Pride 2001 will be hosting a drag benefit later that evening. Motel and dinner discounts will be available. Please register in advance by contacting us either at mariatv77@hotmail.com or (412) 661-7030.

Benefit Concert for Pgh AIDS Task Force

There will be a Benefit Concert for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force August 28 at Sanctuary in Pittsburgh's Strip District. Doors open at 8 PM. Cost is \$10.

Due to severe weather, this year's 9th annual AIDS Walk & Community Day fell more than \$100,000 short of PATF's fundraising goal. As a result, a group of local artists, led by Patrick Arena, have decided to throw a benefit concert to help make up some of the money lost. Because all of PATF's services are free, it is imperative that we raise additional funds in order to continue to serve our more than 600 clients.

Thanks a lot.. Hope to see you there!

Gina Focareta

www.patf.org

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Michael Dithers: Victories and Etc

by Michael Mahler

Well, it's certainly been an interesting month or so, to say the least. I was glad at how well the Pride Picnic went and there is a nifty news about next year's picnic. (But more about that later.)

I was really delighted to hear about Canada extending equal marriage rights to same sex couples. The law isn't implemented in all parts of Canada yet, but I think that the impact is likely to be immense. A local friend was sharing that his Canadian boyfriend had suggested getting married, and he was thinking about it. Since he is of a certain age, he is trying to work out what it means to be part of an institution that we were all used to thinking of as "For Heterosexuals Only!" (Or those willing to pose as such.) As it becomes real for more people, I think that it will greatly affect how we perceived ourselves and how others perceive us. I was heartened to read about a recent survey that found that something like 56% of college freshmen support equal marriage rights. One study concluded that the best predictor of how accepting someone was of GLBT people was how old they are. Again, those who have grown up with folks being out have a much more factual and less fearful view of the gay community.

I was reading elsewhere about the amusing coincidence of the date. Some of you may be aware that the Stonewall Riot, happened on June 27, 1969, the night of Judy Garland's funeral. Amusingly enough, June 10, the date that the Ontario Court of Appeals declared the GLBT couples should have equal access to marriage rights, is also the anniversary of the birth of Judy Garland. So, click your heels and sing a chorus of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", fellow Friends of Dorothy!

It was also very stirring to read about the *Lawrence v Texas* Supreme Court decision. I went to read the text via an online link and felt certifiable chills. From a certain perspective, it may seem trivial to have some text that acknowledges that you are simply worthy of respect and dignity, but it just felt like a historic turning point. I was chatting with someone who thought that it didn't make a difference, since the law hadn't been active in Pennsylvania when it would have affected him. I pointed out that people had their children taken away or could be branded sex offenders simply because of who they are. And as long as there

are at least some of us living in areas where we can be charged as criminals, we are all likely to be held back. This is basically a positive feedback loop in my opinion: folks are open and honest about their lives, which helps others see us as human being, which helps make it easier for others to be out, thus fueling more change. Sure, there are doubtless setbacks and difficulties along the (yellow brick?) road, but we're *moving*.

It seems to be the case that the Massachusetts Supreme Court may possibly soon be the first state here in the US to allow equal marriage rights. This is still up in the air, but observers on both sides of the fence think that they will possibly rule for our side. Heck, who would have thought that any of this was possible even a few years ago.

Oh yeah, an update about next year's Pride Picnic: some of us met a few weeks after to talk about maybe a different spot on Presque Isle, as we have been growing for the past few years. I am happy to report that next year's Picnic will be on Saturday 12 at the Rotary Pavilion, which is near the 3 shelters by the Park Administration Office and the Cookhouse. It has electricity, a small kitchen, much more table space and is right by a floating pier with a beautiful view. Sure it costs more (so donations next year will be extra appreciated!), but we're worth it!

Joy of sax

WASHINGTON DC, July 18 - Congressman Barney Frank today addressed a question to seven of his colleagues who circulated a Dear Colleague letter—calling on “supporters of same-sax unions”—to support a Constitutional amendment to ban them. (I.e. they had a silly typo!)

“I was disappointed to see how vehemently my colleagues oppose same-sax unions,” Frank said. “I assume they will be patrolling nightclubs in their districts to prevent any such duet from undermining public morality. My question is whether they are willing to allow clarinet-saxophone liaisons. We, of course, already know that Senator Frist would be vehemently opposed to any union consisting of two trumpets and a trombone.”

Entertainment Notes

by Deb Spilko

On stage

Joan Armatrading will be at Cain Park (Cleveland Hts.) on August 7 Tickets (216)371-3000 . . . **Jill Sobule** appears in Cleveland Aug. 26 at Beachland Ballroom, and Pittsburgh August 27 at Rosebud . . . **Pansy Division** will be at the Grog Shop in Cleveland August 31 www.grogshop.gs/ . . . **Paula Poundstone** will be at Jr's Last Laugh in Erie October 16-18. . . **Buffalo United Artists** will present **Shakespeare's R&J**—Joe Calarco's new adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* using only four male actors. Opening September 5 at Andrews Theatre, 625 Main. St. (716) 886-9239 www.buffalobua.org email: bu884@hotmail.com

On the air

ABC apparently feels that the US viewing audience is ready for the subject of gay parenting during family prime time. Their new sitcom ***It's All Relative*** is all about a young straight couple and their parents—his are a traditional Irish Catholic married couple, hers are sophisticated, affluent, and both dads. It's scheduled to air at 8:30 PM on Wednesdays (following *My Wife and Kids*) starting in September . . . **Roseanne Barr** is back (and so is her last name!). The ***The Real Roseanne Show*** airs on Wednesday nights on ABC starting August 6. That show follows her around as she pitches then prepares for ***The Domestic Goddess Hour***, a cooking show set to air on ABC Family starting in September. . . **The Brini Maxwell Show** will also feature homemaking tips from TV homemaker—and drag queen—Brini Maxwell (Ben Sander). The show starts airing in September, weeknights at 8 PM on ***E! Style*** . . . **The Ellen DeGeneres Show** is scheduled to start airing September 8, in syndication.

This month, PBS will profile the life and work of **Gore Vidal**, gay novelist, dramatist, screenwriter, actor, and public debater. Among the many works by Vidal that GLBT readers may be familiar with are *The City and the Pillar* (one of Vidal's earliest published works, which he described as “the first unapologetic, openly homosexual novel in America”), *The Best Man*, and *Myra Breckenridge*. The 90-minute program, called ***American Masters: The Education of Gore Vidal***, is scheduled to premier July 30 at 10 PM

In August PBS will be airing the ***P.O.V.*** documentary ***Family Fundamentals***, which examines what happens when fundamentalist Christian parents have a gay child. WNET (Western NY affiliate has this scheduled for August 31, Erie's WQLN will probably air it August 26, but check listings) . . . **AMC Project: Gay Hollywood**, a documentary that follows five young gay guys as they try to make it in the film and TV industry, premieres on AMC August 11 and 12 at 10 PM

Events

The **Ohio Lesbian Festival** will be held September 13 in Kirkersville Ohio (near Columbus). A lot of local women like this event because it's “doable”..one day, nearby, affordable, workshops, performances and fun. Performers lined up at this point include **Tret Fure, Jamie Anderson, Burning Sage, Stefone, Wahru and a drumming circle, Gwen Avery, Katie Reider, and Anne E. Dechant** For info check www.ohiolba.org

Coming up this fall: October 10-12 is the **Cleveland City Country Dancers'** annual weekend of square dancing called **Load the Boat XIII**. Here's how they describe it: “This year the theme is Poseidon Adventure like the movie. There will be square dancing at Mainstream through Advanced and Challenge levels, a potluck dinner on Friday evening, and an optional Sunday brunch cruise on Lake Erie, aboard the Nautica Queen (a boat). The NQ cruise is \$28 for people not participating in the other activities, and there are still tickets available. For those who do not square dance, the weekend is \$20.” For info on this and their many other events, visit www.iagsdc.org/cccd/page4.html or Loadtheboat13@ameritech.net

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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

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.

Coffeehouses & Restaurants

- Aroma's Coffeehouse 456-5282
 2174 W 8th St., Erie PA
 Matthew's Trattoria 459-6458
 153 E 13th St., Erie PA
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 1330 W 26th St., Erie PA toll free # (800) 300-9558
 David J Johnson, PHD 838-9408
 Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009

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



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Donny's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Prizes, Specials & Fun

Daily Prizes
Aug. 16 - Oct. 12

Weekly Prizes
Apr. 18 - Oct. 12

All names will have a chance to win the Grand Prize:

**An all-expenses paid 7-day
Caribbean cruise for two.**

Grand Prize drawing:

Sunday, October 12

Winner has one week to claim the prize or
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Open Bar!
Sat., Oct. 11, 8-10pm
plus free food

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Open Bar!
After the Fall Boat Ride,
Oct. 12, 9-10pm
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