



EGN



Erie Gay News

Erie man legally weds in Canada

Because of concerns about US Immigration, we are respecting the couple's request to withhold the surnames of Canadians.

Bernie Bright and his life partner Rick exchanged vows on October 18 at Toronto City Hall in Toronto, Ontario. The vows they exchanged were similar to those used in heterosexual weddings, with the term "lawfully wedded spouse" replacing words like "husband" and "wife." The Justice of the Peace ended the ceremony by stating "I now present to you Bernie and Rick, their love shared before all of you and now recognized legally."

Legal weddings require two witnesses. Bernie and Rick's wedding was witnessed by Rick's mother, Laurine; Bernie's sister-in-law, Laura, and Rick's best friend, Richard. Both of their families attended the ceremony with full support.

The couple exchanged plain simple black and silver wedding bands. White rose boutonnieres and corsages were worn by the couple and witnesses. Attendees were asked to dress as they wished. Most wore suits, jackets and ties.

A reception party was held at Zelda's Restaurant on Church Street. Following the reception, family photos were taken in the Peace Garden at Toronto City Hall.

Bernie is a U.S. citizen from the Erie area, and Rick is a Canadian citizen living in Toronto. Bernie plans to reside in Toronto when his immigration process is completed. The couple's immigration lawyer has explained that that process will take about a year.



Rick and Bernie Bright at their wedding in Toronto. At their sides are witnesses who stood up with them: Laurine, Rick's mother, stands at his side, while Bernie's sister-in-law Laura stands with him.

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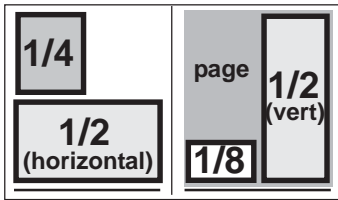
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On the Cover...

Rick and Bernie's wedding

Photo by Rick

EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
Quarter	\$50 (\$45 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 2-7/8" wide
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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



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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 Dave Amy, Larry, James von Loewe, Jerry McCumber, and Brian for folding and Dave S and Jerry McCumber for distributing last issue. Thanks!

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

Calendar

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

Nov 20-22 - Fifth Annual Lake Erie Gala (Erie PA)

At the Holiday Inn-Downtown in Erie. You can see a PDF of brochure at www.eriesisters.org/gala03.pdf. Browse to www.eriesisters.org/GALA1.html. email gala@eriesister.org.

Nov 21 - Speaker: "Treating People Equally: A Gay Perspective on Civil Same-Sex Marriage" (Jamestown NY)

7 PM, in the Prendergast Library's fireplace room. Dr. Gregory Rabb will be the speaker.

Nov 22 - Fantasy Man & American Dream at Rascals (Jamestown NY)

Strip show. 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

Nov 22 - Tret Fure in Concert (Erie PA)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, 8 PM. Leah Zicari will do opening set. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, at Aromas Coffeehouse, (2174 W 8th St) or from Tomboygirl.com. Phone: (716) 326-480. Email: tomboygirls@aol.com. Browse to www.tomboygirl.com.

Nov 22 - Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's West 8th & Chestnut. 8-10 PM

Nov 22 - Performance: 5 Empty Chambers at LMS Fest (Edinboro University, Edinboro PA) 7 PM.

With 4 bands TBA. All ages. Browse to www.gregropp.com.

Nov 25 -Ani Difranco in concert (Buffalo)

Kleinhans Music Hall (716) 885-5000 or www.tickets.com

Nov 26 - On TV: On Stage at the Kennedy Center: The 2003 Mark Twain Prize

On PBS (WQLN, WNED) 9 PM. Salutes out comedian Lily Tomlin, the 2003 honoree of the most prestigious prize for American humor. The 90-minute special features tributes and comic performances from an all-star cast of Tomlin's friends and colleagues, and includes classic film and television clips.

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Eve Service (Cleveland)

7:30 PM, Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Ave, Cleveland, (216)351-1060, archwoodoffice@aol.com.

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving eve: The Village will be open

Village Supper Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net. Browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Nov 26 - Pre-Thanksgiving Party at Rascals (Jamestown NY)

701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220. Featuring go-go boys.

Nov 27- Asians & Friends: Thanksgiving Potluck (Cleveland OH)

Held at a member's home in Cleveland Heights, 3 PM, (216) 226-6080 ext. 3, afccleveland@aol.com, <http://members.aol.com/afccleveland>.

Nov 27 - The Village opens Thanksgiving Night

Village Supper Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA Phone:

Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

GET TESTED : YOU NEED TO KNOW

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

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

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



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Calendar

(814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net. Browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Nov 27 - Thanksgiving at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220. Opens at 6 PM.

Nov 27 - On TV: *Harry for the Holidays* - NBC 10 PM "Multi-platinum-selling and Grammy-winning music star Harry Connick, Jr (best known to our readers for his part as Leo on *Will & Grace*) toasts the holidays in this new Christmas special. Harry is joined by guest stars in his native New Orleans for a variety of performances and will feature songs off his upcoming new CD. TVG

Nov 29 - 5th Annual "Shout It Out Talent Show & Dance Competition" 8:00 PM until 12:30 AM at the Trinity Center located at 462 West 18th Street Erie, PA. Sponsored by SHOUT Outreach HIV/AIDS-Substance Abuse Program The AIDS QUILT and Tree of Life will also be displayed and memorialized. For details see "Community Announcements, page 10)

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day (for listing of events in Erie area, see page 8)

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day Observance (Warren OH), sponsored by the Trumbull County Area AIDS Task Force, 6 PM BYOB social hour, 7 PM dinner, 8 PM guest speaker Louis Farmer, coordinator of the Positively Sexual program of the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, \$20 in advance, \$25 door, Hippodrome, 150 High St. NE, Warren, (330)307-4800, (330)372-7181.

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

Dec 4 - PATF Auction: "Sweet Surprises" (Pittsburgh) Auction of one-of-kind art pieces and collec-

tors items to benefit Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force's free services for people living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk of infection. At Sanctuary, 1620 Penn Ave.(details page 10)

Dec 6 - Menspace meets (Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814)456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Dec 6 - Imperial Court of Buffalo Holiday Extravaganza (Buffalo) Hamlin House 432 Franklin, Buffalo "Includes 1 hour open bar! Cocktails @ 6:00, Dinner @ 7:00. \$25.00 Includes "E.F.F.I.N." Awards and Holiday Show. *RSVP by December 2nd* Malibu876@aol.com

Dec 7 - "Lift Every Voice" (Cleveland) gospel concert for the healing of AIDS, organized with the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, 5:30 PM, Antioch Baptist Church, 8869 Cedar Ave., Cleveland, 216-357-2222, tjones@atfgc.org

Dec 8 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Dec 12 - ACS Benefit: Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker (Buffalo) Beginning at 7:30 PM at Shea's Performing Arts Center. Benefits AIDS Community Services of Western New York. For ticket information, please call ACS at (716)332-2268. To order your tickets, call the Shea's box office at (716)847-0850 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Dec 12 - Drag Performance: Denise Russell at the Zone Dance Club 1711 State St, Erie PA "She's back just in time to bring us some holiday cheer!" Phone: (814) 459-1711.

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Dec. 5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20
Jan. 2& 3
All shows at 8:15pm
Tickets: \$10 / \$7
Reservations: 814-456-9584
652 West 17th Street

www.stagerightproductions.com

Calendar

Dec 13 - 10% Network meets: Christmas Party at John's (Jamestown NY) 7:30 PM. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

Dec 13 - Performance: 5 Empty Chambers at Uncle Charlie's 606 Giant Eagle Plaza, Edinboro PA. 10 PM. Special guest TBA. Browse to www.gregropp.com.

Dec 13 - Ginger Snap & Sabrina White at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

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

Dec 14 - Jazz Brunch at The Village Supper Club 133 W 18th St, Erie PA 1 PM til whenever. *Laura Presutti performs live 3-4 PM.* Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Dec 14 - HUGS East: Useless Gift Exchange and Game Day, social event sponsored by HUGS East, "Bring a dish to share and a wrapped 'useless gift,' 12:30 PM, member's home in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland," hugseast@hotmail.com, <http://hugseast.tripod.com>.

Dec 15 - Deadline for January 2004 edition of Erie Gay News Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Dec 16 - PFLAG-Erie/Crawford meets in Meadville 6:30 PM at Unitarian Church on Chestnut St. in Meadville (weather permitting) Info: Maureen Kosoff. (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Dec 19 - American Dream & Co. at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

Dec 20 - Christmas Show and Snowflake Ball at The Village 133 W 18th St, Erie PA With Michelle Michaels and Onya Marks. Hosted by Rhiannon Angelina. Phone: (814) 452-0125.

Dec 20-21 - North Coast Men's Chorus: "Sugar Plum Fairies" (Cleveland) 8 PM Saturday, 3 PM Sunday, Waetjen Auditorium, Cleveland State University, 2001 Euclid Ave, 800-7666048, www.ncmchorus.org, info@ncmchorus.org, (216)556-0590.

Dec 20 - Winter Solstice Party with 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie PA. 8 PM - 10 PM. "Join the Girls and the Friends for a little holiday festivity, and maybe a few surprises." Email: twogirlsalone@att.net

Dec 20 - Santa's Naughty or Nice Underwear and Pajama Party! at The Zone 1711 State St, Erie PA "Santa Clause is coming to the Zone! Show us how Naughty or Nice you've been this year by wearing your Sexiest pj's or underwear! Silk lingerie, flannel sleepers, Christmas boxers!...Get unwrapped and show off your package! - and don't forget the bow! Gifts to all who participate! —Coal to those who don't! This is our Christmas gift to you! Merry Christmas from everyone at the Zone!" Phone: (814) 459-1711.

Dec 20 - Christmas Benefit Show at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220. Benefits AIDS Community Services of Western NY

Dec 21 - Asians and Friends: Hanukkah Party (Cleveland) Hosted at a member's home, 3 PM,

Dec 24 - The Village open Christmas Eve 133 W 18th St, Erie PA Phone: (814) 452-0125.

Dec 24 - Zone open Christmas Eve (Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St, Erie PA) "The shopping is done, the stockings are hung by the fire and now you need a drink to relax! Join your friends for some holiday cheer! Maybe Santa will show up when he's done delivering his gifts!" Phone: (814) 459-1711.

Sweet Surprises
An Eclectic Art Auction
benefiting the
Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force

Thursday, December 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary, 1620 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh
Tickets are \$10 at the door
For more information, call
412 - 242 - 2500 ext. 122

 Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
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Calendar

Dec 25 - The Village open Christmas Night at The Village 133 W 18th St, Erie PA Phone: (814) 452-0125.

Dec 25 - The Zone open Christmas Night 1711 State St, Erie PA. "Join your friends and 'family' after your relatives have gone! Happy holidays!" Phone: (814) 459-1711.

Dec 26 - Asians and Friends host Christmas Party (Cleveland) Hosted at a member's house, featuring the Secret Santa Gift Exchange, bring a present worth around \$15, no calendars, \$3 members, \$6 nonmembers, 6 PM, (216)226-6080 ext. 3, afccleveland@aol.com, <http://members.aol.com/afccleveland>.

Dec 27 - Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's West 8th & Chestnut. 8-10 PM

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Party at The Village 133 W 18th St, Erie PA Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net. www.thevillageerie.com

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Blast at Zone Dance Club 1711 State St, Erie PA. "Welcome in the New Year with all your friends at the Zone! Champagne toast at midnight - Good friends who bring in cheer—Buffet, party favors and surprises—Our last big party of the Year! Get into the Zone! We'll give you more in 2004! - Have a safe and happy new year from the staff at the Zone!" (814) 459-1711.

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Bash at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220. Food, party favors, champagne, more.

Dec 31 - Erie Playhouse: "Hooray for Hollywood!" New Year's Gala 13 W. 10th, 454-2852, ext. 0

Dec 31 - Asians and Friends New Year's Eve Potluck Party (Cleveland) Hosted by Asians and Friends Cleveland at a member's home in Lakewood, 7 PM,

216-2266080 ext. 3, afccleveland@aol.com, <http://members.aol.com/afccleveland>.

Jan 7 - "Always Our Children" meets (Erie PA) Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St. (814) 456-2091

Jan 11 - Jazz Brunch at The Village (Erie PA) 133 W. 18th St. 1 PM til whenever. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Jan 12 - PFLAG Meeting-Erie/Crawford (Erie PA) 7 PM - 9 PM. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Regular monthly meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Jan 15 - Deadline for February 2004 edition of Erie Gay News Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Jan 17 - 10% Network meets: Porn Swap (Rob & Jon's, 18 Lakeview Dr, Jamestown NY) 7:30 PM. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

Jan 17- Asians and Friends: Chinese New Year Banquet and Show Cleveland) annual celebration held by Asians and Friends Cleveland, \$29.50 members, \$35 nonmembers before Jan. 10, all tickets \$40 after, 6:30 PM, Tin Fu Café, 3400 St. Clair Ave, Cleveland, (216)226-6080 ext. 3, afccleveland@aol.com, <http://members.aol.com/afccleveland>.

Jan 16 & 17 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On" (Buffalo) 8 PM. Jan. 16 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo and Jan. 17 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Main St. www.buffalogaymenschorus.com

Jan 24 - Menspace meets (Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814)456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Best wishes
for your
Holiday Season!**

**Planning something for
New Year's Eve?**

We'll be happy to let our readers know...
please get the info to us by December 15

On stage

Area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

The Importance of Being Earnest, performed by The Bunbury Theatre Co. in Jamestown, December 4-13. Gay playwright Oscar Wilde's comedy about mistaken identity and Victorian values. Not overtly gay but certainly has a strong gay sensibility. Presented by Jamestown's new Off-Off-Broadway theater at 210 Cherry Street Jamestown NY 14701 (716)483-3566 bunburycompany@yahoo.com

What I Did Last Summer A.R. Gurney's coming of age story, will be presented by Buffalo United Artists November 14 - December 6 at Main Street Cabaret - 672 Main St. in Buffalo NY (716)886-9239 bua884@hotmail.com or www.buffalobua.org

Jeffrey, Paul Rudnick's comedic play about a gay man who gives up having sex at the height of the AIDS epidemic, will be performed at Beck Center's Studio Theater November 21 to December 14. Located at 17801 Detroit Ave, Lakewood OH (Cleveland area), (216)5212540, www.beckcenter.org.

At Cleveland's Gordon Square Public Theatre from Nov. 28 to Dec. 20, you can see **Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge**, the politically-incorrect parody of "Christmas Carol" by gay playwright Christopher Durang (perhaps best known to Erie audiences for another play he wrote, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*), Thurs-Sat 8 PM, Sun 3 PM, \$13-\$18, Gordon Square Theatre of Cleveland Public Theatre, 6415 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, (216)-631-2727, www.cptonline.org.

Something's Afoot Produced by our own Patrick Hiller. Musical spoof of Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians" Tickets: General Admission - \$10, Students & Seniors - \$7 Dates: Dec. 5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20, Jan 2 & 3. All shows start at 8:15 PM Reservations: 814-456-9584 Location: Stage Right Productions, 652 W 17th St.

Websites and email lists for appearances by area performers:

Greg Ropp www.gregropp.com.
Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com/



"The LGBT community has the highest rate of smoking than any other minority population."

- NY Times, 1999

The Gay American Smoke Out is an opportunity for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) individuals to challenge themselves to quit smoking.

It is also an opportunity for LGBT organizations to provide resources for quitting and host fun events to raise awareness about tobacco.

The Gay American Smoke Out is timed to coincide with the American Cancer Society's Great American Smoke Out, usually held the third Thursday in November.

If you want to quit, or if your organization wishes to host an event, browse to www.gaysmokeout.net

And get ready to take your last drag!



**ERIE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Funded by the Pennsylvania
Department of Health

World AIDS Day

Observance Schedule

Hosted by:
Erie County Dept of Health
“Stigma and Discrimination: Live and Let Live”

December 1-5

Hispanic American Council Millcreek Mall,
AIDS Memorial Quilt Display

The Shout Outreach program will display “The Tree Of Life,” with a memorial recognition in honor of individuals who may have been stricken with AIDS on Dec 1, 2003. The Tree Of Life, will be displayed at Gaudenzia Crossroads, for both clients and staff on Dec. 1-5, 2003.

December 1

Erie County Office of Children & Youth AIDS Memorial Quilt Display

SCI Albion Prison (Private Observance) World AIDS Day Program

Cathedral of St. Paul, Episcopal World AIDS Day Healing Service ~ 6:00 PM Kelvin’s Dinner

December 2

SCI Cambridge Springs Prison (Private) World AIDS Day Observance

December 4

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine “Tree of Hope”

December 5

Mental Health Association, 1101 Peach Ecumenical Service for World AIDS Day 1:30 PM

December 7

Erie County Dept of Health “Remembering the Spirit of Julia”

3-5 PM And other Recovering Addicts “**Spiritual Healing**” Marsha Hall Learning Center - 1841 East 18th St

Other programs to be announced —Please call Steve Simmelkjaer at 451-7875 for information about World AIDS Day Programs, to obtain resources, materials or Quilt Information.

The *Erie Times-News* also carries a listing of local World AIDS Day events.

Live and Let Live 2002-2003

Live and Let Live is the slogan of the two-year World AIDS Campaign 2002-2003, which will focus on eliminating stigma and discrimination. Stigma and discrimination are the major obstacles to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Fear of discrimination may prevent people from seeking treatment for AIDS or from acknowledging their HIV status publicly.

People with, or suspected of having, HIV may be turned away from health care services, denied housing and employment, shunned by their friends and colleagues, turned down for insurance coverage or refused entry into foreign countries. In some cases, they may be evicted from home by their families, divorced by their spouses, and suffer physical violence or even murder.

The stigma attached to HIV/AIDS may extend into the next generation, placing an emotional burden on children who may also be trying to cope with the death of their parents from AIDS. With its focus on stigma and discrimination, the Campaign will encourage people to break the silence and the barriers to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Only by confronting stigma and discrimination will the fight against HIV/AIDS be won.

Canada marriage information

Some thoughts and advice

Rick, who is the Canadian member of the married couple on our front cover, offers these thoughts and facts for people considering rushing to Canada to have same sex marriages performed:

1. The laws have not formally changed yet! The existing ones have just been knocked down. There is always the chance (not likely) that same sex unions may become illegal again. The ones already performed are legal and have to be recognized.

2. Not surprisingly, all churches do *not* do same sex marriages. If you want a “church wedding” your best bet is MCC Toronto or the United Church of Canada (depends on congregation).

3. *Not* all communities and cities in the Province of Ontario are performing same-sex weddings. So if your dream wedding in romantic Niagara Falls is your choice, check ahead. Toronto is the *only* safe bet.

4. Even the city of Toronto does not force Justices of the Peace to perform same-sex weddings. Only the willing do them. The city just guarantees that there will be somebody who will do your union. That means don't show up at the door! Call ahead and book your wedding (compulsory) and notify them that it is a same-sex union.

5. You need to bring along sufficient ID. You need photo ID and proof of citizenship (a birth certificate or passport) or *no licence!* The wedding chapel operates on weekends *but* the licensing bureau does *not*. It does the normal 8:30 to 4 PM office hours so you need to take time off to get your licence.

5. The cost? It costs \$110 CDN (approximately. \$86 US dollars) for a licence in Toronto. The wedding at city hall cost \$150 CDN (approximately \$118 US). If you want a church wedding here they start at about \$350 CDN for a very private service.

6. Here's the real kicker!!! Better be serious before you head off to the Las Vegas of the Gay Community! Ontario's marriage regulations allow for non-residents to be married, *however* our divorce laws REQUIRE MANDATORY RESIDENCY in the province of one year! Think twice!

~Rick

US Immigration and the Canadian spouse

We asked SPARC cochair Steve Glassman to comment on Rick's concerns that if his last name were publicized, US Immigration could prevent him from entering the United States. Steve offered the following background:

The conundrum to which Rick from Toronto refers is the incompatibility of Canadian marriage laws in Ontario and the US Immigration laws which do not recognize same sex couples. A Canadian who comes to the US claiming to be married to a same sex partner can be kept out of the United States by Immigration officials and prevented from entering at all since we don't recognize his status as a spouse. He can enter as a single individual under the status of a visitor, but if he insists he is married he will probably be kept out as a hostile intruder. The US citizen, however, is welcomed in Canada as the other half of a married couple.

This kind of confusion will continue for a number of years until legal challenges sort out this inequity, especially after Massachusetts grants same sex marriage. At that point, there will be numerous lawsuits by couples from the other 49 states who come to Massachusetts to get married, return to their own states to live as married couples, and find that they are denied their rights under the full faith and credit laws of the states with regard to the recognition of marriage in all other states and countries. It will take a while to sort this out. Congressman Barney Frank has been working on trying to change the inequities in our Immigration laws for years to allow same sex couples to have the non-American half of a couple be able to live in the US with his/her partner without being forced to leave when their visa has expired.

~Steve Glassman, Co-Chair
Statewide PA Rights Coalition (SPARC)

For more on Canada and Same
Sex Marriage, got to Toronto
Metropolitan Community Church
at www.mcctoronto.com

Community Announcements

GLBT-Friendly Spiritual Counseling

Please note that the Reverend Doctor Clark Walz of the Cascade United Methodist Church, 1001 W 21st St, Erie PA, is available for GLBT-friendly spiritual counseling. Call the church at (814) 452-3364 for more information.

Fifth Annual Shout it Out Talent Show & Dance

On November 29, 2003, SHOUT Outreach HIV/AIDS-Substance Abuse Program will be sponsoring their 5th Annual "Shout It Out Talent Show & Dance Competition." The AIDS QUILT will also be displayed and memorialized, during the opening of the Talent Show. The event is a community prevention awareness program that was developed to provide positive venues in which youth can participate that are socially acceptable, educational and rewarding. All performances contain material that promote positive messages to our youth, and relate to our theme.

This year's theme for the event is: "Youth Reality Check 2003, Choices HIV/AIDS." It will be held 8:00 PM until 12:30 AM at the Trinity Center located at 462 West 18th Street Erie, PA.

The Shout Outreach program, in recognition of World AIDS Day, will display "The Tree Of Life," with a memorial recognition of individuals who may have been stricken with AIDS on Dec. 1, 2003. The Tree Of Life, will be displayed at Gaudenzia Crossroads, for both clients and staff on Dec. 1-5, 2003.

Sweet Surprises, 'eclectic' art auction to benefit Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force

On December 4, 2003, the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) will present Sweet Surprises, an auction of one-of-kind art pieces and collectors items to raise funds for its free services for people living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk of infection.

Donated by an anonymous supporter, the collection includes rare signatures and artwork unlike anything seen before in Pittsburgh. Sweet Surprises will take place at Sanctuary, 1620 Penn Ave., in the Strip District and will begin with a preview hour from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, immediately followed by the live auction. Just in time for holiday gift shopping, the auc-

tion will include over 30 collector's items, including cartoon artwork by Dr. Seuss, Keith Haring, and Joseph Barbera, and autographs from Shirley Temple, Greta Garbo, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra and the Beatles.

For more information, please contact Gina Focareta, communications director, at 412.242.2500 ext. 123 or commdir@city-net.com.

Morton's Strong Start for the 2003-2004 LPRA Season

When Erie's Karen Morton set out to begin her first full year on the Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA) tour this year, she had but a few goals in mind. First, to raise enough funds to get to the more than twelve international stops on the LPRA tour. Second, to win enough points to advance her ranking to within the top 20 women on the tour by January 2004. Third, to generate interest in a piece of racquetball artwork that she and friend Christelle DeCrease, also of Erie, created together this past summer.

On August 23, Karen and friends – particularly Joe and Joey of Two Friends Italian Market, but also many others – entertained more than 150 people at Karen's LPRA party. The event, which raised travel funds for Karen's 2003-2004 LPRA tour attempt, was a huge success. While 2 Girls Alone entertained, Joe and Joey furnished more than 45 pounds of pasta and over 35 pizzas for the diverse crowd of friends, racquetball players, former team members and coaches, family, and other well-wishers. Karen says she was deeply touched by the support, and is greatly indebted to her sponsors and all of the friends who worked to make the event a success.

Her first goal (fundraising) accomplished, Karen was off to compete at Rosarito Beach, Mexico, Charlotte, North Carolina and Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the second round at Albuquerque, she took an unprecedented game from the number one player in the world, Cheryl Gudinas. The typically unbeatable Gudinas went on to win the match, but Karen's performance and previous wins earned her a new tour ranking of number 20. She goes on to compete at the U.S. Open in Memphis, Tennessee from November 19-23.

(continued next page)

PFLAG News

by Maureen Koseff
PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

New PFLAG board elected

PFLAG-Erie elected the following officers at its annual membership-election meeting on November 10th: President: Maureen Koseff; Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Hoovler; Board Member: Marcha Vecchio. (Thank you Mark and Marcha for the work you did last year! I look forward to working with you again this year.) We thank all those who attended, voted, and renewed their memberships. Everyone is welcome to become a PFLAG member. You don't have to be gay to join. If you consider the work we do to be important and want to support us, please consider joining. Those of you who are members and weren't able to attend November's meeting, please consider renewing. Call Maureen at 898-8341.

PFLAG Activities

We spoke to a class of about 30 graduate students in social work at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford, on October 20th. We relish such opportunities to talk about PFLAG and GLBT issues, because it can positively influence the attitudes of people who deal with the public. Hopefully, eventually, our GLBT people will stop running into counselors and public servants who don't understand their problems.

Community announcements

(continued from previous page)

As fate would have it, the U.S. Open will also mark the accomplishing of Karen's third goal for this year: The new owner of the LPRAs has adopted Karen's and Christelle's artwork, a female racquetball player with an attitude named "Anita Court", as the new image for the LPRAs. It will be unveiled at the U.S. Open as part of a new visibility campaign for the LPRAs. With the toughest and most important part of the season ahead of her, Morton is motivated and hopeful. As a relative unknown on the tour with a game that is consistently improving, she's the player to watch this season.

We continue to work with McDowell High School students who are trying to get their gay-straight alliance underway this year.

Several PFLAG-Erie members testified at the Erie County Council meeting on November 12th, urging that funding be retained for the Human Relations Commission (HRC). Others testified in favor of the commission, as well. The HRC and economic development were the two main issues discussed at the meeting. The Council will have a public discussion of the full budget at 4 PM next Tuesday, Nov 18th, and vote on the budget at a public meeting at 5 PM. Interested parties may attend both meetings. They will be at the county courthouse.

December 1st is World AIDS Day. We hope you will read the notices about World AIDS Day activities in the November issue of EGN and this issue, and try to attend some of them. We respectfully remember those friends and relatives who have died from AIDS. We also offer a helping hand to those who suffer from HIV or AIDS.

Meeting Notes

We are resuming PFLAG meetings in Meadville, so all you Crawford County people, please come! We are buying pizza for everyone who attends. It will be Tuesday, Nov 18th, 6:30 to 8:15, at the Unitarian Church on Chestnut St., Meadville, next to the YMCA. Please pass on this info to everyone you know in the Meadville area. We plan to have our second Meadville meeting on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Church on Chestnut St., weather permitting.

Our next Erie meeting is, as usual, the second Monday on the month: December 8th, at the Unitarian Church on Route 97, 7 to 9 PM. We hope to discuss whether to have other bingo events after the support section of that meeting.

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, write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421 or pflagerie@adelphia.net

National News Briefs

by Bob

Scalia Ridicules Court Ruling

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has ridiculed the court's recent ruling striking down anti-gay state sodomy statutes, calling it a result of a "liberal political order" that is contrary to his strict interpretation of the Constitution.

In a speech to the conservative Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Scalia said he thinks his fellow justices are twisting the Constitution in ways the nation's founding fathers did not intend when they wrote the historic document.

The ruling, Scalia said, "held to be a constitutional right what had been a criminal offense at the time of the founding and for nearly 200 years thereafter."

According to Jon Davidson, senior counsel for Lambda Legal, Scalia thinks the court should interpret the Constitution according to how the founders would have ruled on particular issues during George Washington's time.

Controversial Promotion

The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved the promotion of Major General Robert Clark. In July 1999, Clark was in charge of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where two soldiers killed Pfc. Barry Winchell by bludgeoning him with a baseball bat because they believed he was gay.

But Winchell's parents believe the climate at Fort Campbell was also to blame. Soldiers chanted anti-gay cadences and put up anti-gay graffiti. According to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), Clark also implemented a policy at Fort Campbell that led to a record number of GLBT discharges.

The full U.S. Senate will consider whether to give Maj. Gen. Clark a third star and promote him to the rank of lieutenant general, the army's second-highest rank.

Lawsuits Continue Against Military

Two groups of Yale Law students have filed a lawsuit challenging the Defense Department's right to force military recruitment on college campuses. It is the fourth such suit filed against the Pentagon in the federal courts.

The suits arise from the Bush administration's decision to rigorously enforce the Solomon Amendment, a 1996 law that cuts off federal funds from any institution of higher learning that bars military recruiters from campus. The rule conflicts with many school's policies against cooperating with employers who discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

Last summer, most of the leading law schools received letters threatening to cut federal funds to the universities as a whole if the Judge Advocate General (JAG) representatives were not given the same treatment as other recruiters. With over \$300 million at stake in grants to Yale University, the Yale Law School was obliged to make an exception to its nondiscrimination policy on behalf of the JAG corps. Other law schools have been placed in a similar dilemma.

Gay Bishop Consecrated

The U.S. Episcopal Church has officially consecrated the denomination's first openly gay bishop, prompting divisive reactions in many parts of the world.

Before a congregation of about 4,000 people in New Hampshire, 45 bishops laid their hands on Rev. V. Gene Robinson, 56, while the head of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Frank Griswold, prayed: "Father, make Gene a bishop in your church."

Robinson's spouse of 15 years, Mark Andrew, presented him with the traditional headdress of bishops, a gold miter.

In speaking to his critics, Robinson said, "There are faithful, wonderful Christian people for whom this is a moment of great pain and confusion and anger. And our God will be served if we are hospitable and loving and caring toward them in every way we can possibly muster. They must know that if they must leave, they will always be welcomed back into our fellowship."

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Sign up for our email list!
<http://erieglbt.eriegaynews.com>

National News

(continued from previous page)

Phelps Attacks Again

Right-wing fanatic and notorious anti-gay pastor Fred Phelps is at it again! Phelps and his supporters are trying to erect a "monument" in a Casper, WY, park condemning the late Matthew Shepard. Phelps is best known for organizing anti-gay picketing at Shepard's 1998 funeral.

In order to push his cause, Phelps is citing two, 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals cases that have required equal access to public property under the constitutional protection of freedom of speech. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over Wyoming.

According to Casper City Manager Thomas Forslund, the City Council and most residents oppose Phelps, but the city faces a dilemma; a privately-sponsored monument to the Ten Commandments already stands in the same public park where Phelps wants to place his monument. In order to stop Phelps, the City

Council may have to ban private displays in the park and remove the Ten Commandments monument.


If such a step is taken by the city, Phelps says he will consider buying a private parcel of land in Casper in order to erect the monument, a six-foot granite slab emblazoned with Shepard's photo, that reads: "Matthew Shepard Entered Hell October 12, 1998, At Age 21 In Defiance of God's Warning."

New HRC Executive Director

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest GLBT rights group in the United States, has appointed Massachusetts State Sen. Cheryl Jacques president and executive director of the organization. She will replace outgoing director Elizabeth Birch.

Jacques (pronounced "Jakes"), a Democrat from Needham, has served in the Massachusetts Senate since 1992. She will assume her HRC duties in January and a special election will be held to fill her Senate seat.

"At every age and at every level GLBT people face challenges because our laws discriminate against them," she said in a prepared statement. "There is great work to be done to protect and empower our community."



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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:

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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)

Your Health Focus...

Seasonal and Holiday Depression

by **Christine D. Hudak, MD**

Let's face it - with the coming of the winter weather and the holidays, it's not all "comfort and joy." The weather in Erie is cold, gray and snowy. The holidays can seem like an awful lot of work. Some of us may feel saddened by the holidays because our sexual orientation has isolated us from our families, or maybe we don't have (or are grieving the death of) a partner. Therefore, I'd like to share some information with you on two important topics: seasonal depression and holiday blues/depression.

Starting with seasonal depression, the medical term for this is Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD for short (catchy, eh?) This is a major depressive episode that has its onset in the late fall, and gets better in the spring. People who are affected with SAD tend to notice this happening year after year. It's common - 6% of people will get this yearly, and 10-20% will at least have some of the symptoms. The symptoms include depressed moods, increased sleep, increased appetite (especially for carbohydrates), weight gain, irritability, loss of interest in activities and an inability to concentrate. Though we don't know the exact biologic reason this happens, we think the lack of sunlight effects the brain chemicals that regulate mood and/or the internal clock.

For those with severe symptoms, there are some treatment options. One is bright light therapy with a special light. This light or light box has the power to emit an energy level of 10,000 lux - many times more than your average light bulb. Typically you spend 30 minutes a day or so in front of the light while reading or performing some other activity with your eyes open. Most people notice improvement in 2-4 days, although it can take up to 2-4 weeks to get results. This therapy should be continued until the sun peeks back out in the spring. These lights are expensive (\$200.00 - \$500.00), but some insurances do cover them if recommended by your doctor. To get more information on the lights, check out www.sadlight.com <<http://www.sadlight.com>> or www.northernlighttechnologies.com. Warning - tanning beds do not work for this, so don't use them! Of

course, regular anti-depressant medications are also effective treatment for relief of severe symptoms.

The holiday blues tend to hit in December. There are multiple reasons for this. Some of us look back and realize we are no longer in the "good old days." Others never had "good old days" to begin with, and may remember the holidays to be a painful time. We can also feel lonely, missing those who have gone out of our lives. Maybe we long for a closeness that is not there anymore with our family of origin. We might be disappointed at our accomplishments (or lack thereof.) Holiday activities may be overwhelming and exhausting, despite the fact that the intention is celebration.

So, how do we avoid the holiday blues? Here are a few suggestions. From a practical standpoint, try to continue eating right, exercising and getting enough rest. Don't drink too much alcohol - it acts as a depressant. Set realistic goals - prioritize what you want to do instead of trying to do everything. Stick to your holiday budget (nothing more depressing than getting those credit card bills in January!) From an emotional standpoint - it's OK to take some time reflect on sadness or loneliness at the holidays, as long as it doesn't turn in to a month-long pity party. Consider volunteering to bring cheer to those less fortunate than you. Create your own new holiday traditions and gatherings with those who care about you. Slow down, breathe deeply, and enjoy the positive energy that surrounds this time of year.

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.

OUR DEADLINE

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Music review

Tret Fure steps out with *My Shoes*

My Shoes

Tret Fure

(Tomboy Girl 83102)

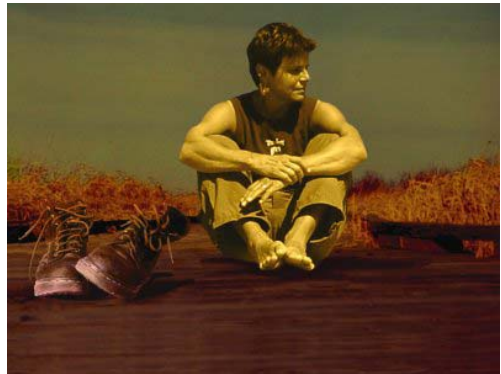
Tret Fure loves shoes. So much so that she often says during her stage repartee that she never travels without at least four pairs of them. No surprise then that her newest cd is entitled *My Shoes*. But it's not about the shoes. It's all about the journey.

To take note of Tret Fure's frequent use of the walking metaphor—in dreams among angels, side-by-side, never apart—is to sense the depth of an all-encompassing love that enriches her recent compositions. Listen to *My Shoes* as an invitation to step inside these landscapes, travel the open road of the touring musician, and just maybe, to see the world through her eyes.

Longtime Fure fans will love this cd for its heaping helping of tenderly delivered ballads. Tret's voice has grown richer with the years and she showcases it effectively here. "Dream Time," "I Choose You," and "The Wedding Song" prove once again that the love song is this artist's purest expression of herself. But there is something else, a surprising new passion found in the freewheeling, full-bodied vocals on songs like "L.A.," "Bigger Than I," "How in the World" — a turning from bel canto to "can belt-o," as it were. These are songs of joy, hope, and triumph for where she is today with so much behind her and so much more to come. It's as if a door has been thrown open; the sea change is remarkable, the results stunning.

Producing this album on her indie Tomboy Girl label with spouse and partner Jane Weldon as executive, Fure has assembled a group of talented sidemen and—women from eclectic backgrounds, all with the uncanny ability to immediately engage in her musical vision. Under the maestro's hand, they place deft touches of their artistry like brush strokes on the canvas of her masterpiece.

Fure brings an array of influences to create the set pieces of this extraordinary follow-up to her



acclaimed 2001 release, *Back Home*. The slow samba of "I Choose You" is so captivating you'll find your hips swaying in a sexy salsa. The lovely Slavic romanticism of Matt Turner's cello in "The Wedding Song," written for Tret's nephew and his bride, reveals unmistakably the heart and soul of a love Tret has found in her own life. It discloses again as Turner's cello joins Fure at the grand piano for the touchingly intimate "Dream Time."

Tret re-ups Michaelle Goerlitz, marvelous percussionist and veteran of previous Fure recordings, to team with Andy Waldeck on bass and Stuart Gunter at the drums. This threesome are a good match for Fure's rollicking pace, staking their claim in the opening track, a heart-pounding crescendo to underscore her soaring vocal on "L.A." Later, listen to Kara Barnard's mandolin create a near-subliminal flavor of old country Italy in "Three Generations," Tret's testament to the lineage of strong women she succeeds and their love that lives on through her.

Backing the bluegrass-tinged "How In the World," a tune of sweet surprise, is Barnard playing everything but the washboard. Carole Nelson and Maria Walsh of Zrazy raise Celtic high spirits with bodhran and pennywhistle on "Fly," a song that speaks of the letting go that can only be achieved with a heart wide open. You'll hear the skirl and hum of bagpipes in the harmonic combining of Tret's vocals and guitar.

"Bigger Than I" shows off Fure's trademark percussive guitar with wryly hopping rhythms. In the

(continued next page)

Review: Tret Fure

(from previous page)

guise of a tongue-in-cheek travelogue, this song conveys Tret's plainly eloquent personal mission statement: "it's all about music, it's all about time...all about poetry, all about rhyme; but it's more about something much bigger than I."

In "Hawk and the Dove," a plea for reason in the face of rage and loss that was penned the day after September 11, 2001, Tret plies her riffs seamlessly over Gunter's military snare; the effect raises chills in the listener. Still in a political vein, Fure exercises a rare use of the bully pulpit to decry the insidious evil of sexual harassment with a song based on a true story from Chicago Public Radio's, *This American Life* - "Noel Evans" is a grim tale of how small-minded collusion and ignorance perpetuate sexual harassment as a rank privilege and of a community that seeks to punish the victims of the exposed abuser even after his rage has turned lethal.

Inspired by the painting "1919: The Alarm" by Kuma Petrov-Vodkin, "The Apartment" was composed as an exercise from one of the many songwriting workshops Tret conducts. The teacher takes on the assignment of interpreting this poignant work with equally poignant results. The haunting melody will stay with you in this somber portrayal of a man and woman in conflict, each alienated from the other, and a daughter all but invisible to them in the urban hardscrabble. Here Fure draws our eye and pins her hopes on the young girl to one day "bravely bold the door and walk away."

And as if to signal the fading down of the lights, "Minute by Minute" closes out *My Shoes* with vignettes of Tomboy Girl life on the road between gigs, the long miles, dark and early, snowy and late. Minute by minute, day by day, we each live our lives in quiet endeavor, pulling up our own socks, lacing up our own shoes. Do yourself this favor: Try on Tret Fure's shoes for size. You'll be surprised what you might see from where she stands.

~Kate Hentz

Kate Hentz is a freelance writer in Westfield, NY.

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Downtown Erie

Entertainment Notes

by Deb Spilko

Television

Finally! Showtime's new lesbian drama series, **The L-Word**, will begin airing in January 2004. No airdate specified at this writing. Cast members are Jennifer Beals, Mia Kirshner, Eric Mabius, Laurel Holloman, Karina Lombard, Pam Grier, Katherine Moennig, Erin Daniels, Leisha Hailey. Visit the Showtime website for info on the show, video previews, links, to subscribe to Showtime, and other stuff. www.sho.com If you'd really like to get into it, go to www.afterellen.com — one thing I found interesting was a comparison between AfterEllen's review of the series, placed next to Showtime's description... it's like two entirely different shows (Showtime's description made it sound like much of the series' premise revolves around the search for a sperm donor!)

HBO premieres **Angels in America** on December 7, adapted from Tony Kushner's acclaimed and powerful play about AIDS during the Reagan years. Interesting that this hard-hitting drama will appear just three weeks after CBS pulled its own much milder miniseries, *The Reagans*. The film version of *Angels in America* was directed by Mike Nichols, and features Al Pacino, Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson. The New York Times says, "*Angels* is the most powerful screen adaptation of a major American play since Elia Kazan's *Streetcar Named Desire* more than a half-century ago." The six-hour production will be presented in two parts. For information visit www.hbo.com

Bars

As of November 1, **The Village** is under new ownership, with Leslie, Bob and Lou officially taking over. Watch for the Grand Re-Opening of The Village, date and time TBA! Also note that The Village is now open every Sunday.

Tom and Cathy Zaragoza, the owners of Dunkirk's **Coyote Blue**, have closed the bar and are moving to New Mexico. I spoke with Tom recently, and asked him if it had to do with the fact that the establishment had become an "Alternative Lifestyle Bar & Nightclub" in August of this year. Tom expressed a lot of frustration...with New York State laws governing drinking establishments, and with the bigotry that he and his wife Cathy encountered in the Dunkirk

area. "It's very intolerant here," he said. "Race, religion sexuality...you name it. We're from L.A., and the atmosphere there is live and let live. We've never encountered this kind of attitude." Tom mentioned that his wife is Mexican, and he is a white anglo, and people in the area were sometimes less than accepting. "I can't tell you how many times I've thrown people out of the bar for making slurs like 'spic,' and 'wetback.'" The bar had encountered some problems with a priest who got worked up when the bar began to court gay customers, and Tom said that really wasn't much of a factor. "The gay community was great, though. Everyone was kind, considerate, and nice." The place Tom and Cathy have bought is in a progressive New Mexico community and sounds great. Best of luck to them.

Travel

Starting in December, the **Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau** (PCVB) will begin a campaign to market their city to the gay tourist. Using the slogan "Get your history straight, and your nightlife gay," the campaign will use slightly altered historical images (like Ben Franklin flying a rainbow kite) in print ads, the Internet and television ads. The PCVB's new *Gay and Lesbian Travel Guide* will be available through the mail or on their website. Info www.pcvb.org or Ellen Kornfield at (215) 636-3471 ellenk@pcvb.org

Holidays

You can check out a wide variety of holiday-themed music of interest to lgbt people at **Ladyslipper Music** online www.ladyslipper.org Look in the "choral" section as well as the "holiday" ones. They do offer more selections for women, but there are offerings of interest to men as well.

We'll be sending a couple New Year's questions out to our email list. Please feel free to respond, whether or not you're on the list. Ready? Okay, first question... "What's the worst way you ever spent your New Year's Eve?" and/or (you can answer both if you like) "What would be a really great way to spend New Year's Eve?" Email your responses to info@eriegaynews.com

Guess that's all for this month...

Peace on Earth,
Deb

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Well, it has certainly been a busy month! I am very glad that we are able to carry the wedding announcement of Bernie and Rick in this issue. They have been friends for quite some time. Rick mentioned that they chose black rings because of being involved in the Leather community. I think it's also nifty that their supportive families were there for their marriage. Too often, the mainstream media overlooks the fact that gay people are part of families too, as well as the ones that they form. (Someone might want to alert George W Bush, but be sure to use small words, m'kay?) Oddly enough, just before sitting down to write this column, I was watching an episode of "It's All Relative" on ABC, and a plot point was a candidate running for State Senator who announced support for equal marriage rights. The 2 gay dads joined the campaign. I know a lot of people think that equal marriage rights is some kind of huge step, but I think we will eventually see people who oppose it now being embarrassed at their position, much like folks who were pro-segregation in the 50's and 60's.

Some of us spoke at a recent County Council meeting about including the Erie County Human Relations Commission in the budget. As I am writing this, the vote has not taken place, and it is not clear where things are going, but I feel that we have a fighting chance for keeping it active and local. When I spoke, I mentioned that I had a phone call within the past few months who had been fired. He felt that it was possibly due to his sexual orientation. I also took a call shortly after that from a bisexual woman with a husband who was also bisexual. The husband had AIDS. The wife called to claim that they had been denied health care by a local provider and that a message had been left on his answering machine by the provider calling him a "faggot."

I am only hearing one half of each story, so it is possible that these would not be substantiated. However, the simple fact that they can't currently be resolved means that no one, not the claimants, nor the businesses can move on with the local HRC not currently investigating claims. If we can have a "one stop shop" for area business to foster economic development, how much of a genius does it take to realize that businesses stand to also gain when they can settle

cases locally and in much less time. Who wants to take time away from their company to hire a lawyer in Pittsburgh and/or travel there?

It will be interesting to see what happens next year? Democrat Kyle Foust won a County Council seat. One of the issues that he campaigned on was supporting the HRC, whereas his opponent, Republican incumbent James Terrill, had not been as supportive. Terrill did vote for the revised ordinance that included sexual orientation and gender identity last year.

We'll have more coverage as it develops. You can sign up for the HRC supporters list at the website. Go to www.eriegaynews.com/hrc.html to sign up.

I was recently very pleased to see that my gay great uncle had gotten a laptop and is now online. I honestly thought that he might not make the attempt. I emailed him some old family photos to check on dates and other details.

Speaking of photo galleries, has everyone seen the Pride Weekend photos at www.eriegaynews.com/2003Festival/? I have some older photos that I am also hoping to scan and post to a blog at the web site.

Deb and I just realized that this issue is our 1 year anniversary of the new run. It has certainly been an eventful year. (By the way, I don't recommend starting a newsletter and ending a 9 1/2 year relationship in the same time span.) Folks have been pretty good about getting stuff in, and we seem to be holding our own. We very much appreciate everyone's support! I do feel that having a tangible place to turn to for info is a vital part of community building. So, for all the stress and strain that sometimes go with doing a newsletter, the effort is worth it.

Hope that your holiday season (whatever the spiritual tradition you follow) is happy and joyous!



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

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(814) 898-8341

pflagerie@adelphia.net

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

North Atlantic Transgender Coordinator

Resources 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.

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

- Cascade United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Clark Walz 452-3364
 1001 W 21st Erie PA .GLBT friendly spiritual 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

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) 455-3436
 Linda Foll-Johnson, Realtor 864-3200 ext 325
 Tom NeCastro, Realtor 452-2100 ext 125
 Levine Law Office 454-3819

Retail

- 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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