

June 2004

EGN

Erie Gay News

12th Annual PRIDE Erie Picnic

The 2004 Erie Pride Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 12 from 2 PM to sundown at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle. Please note!!! This is a new location at Presque Isle for us. There will be signs at the park.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and table settings will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Donations to cover the cost of renting the nifty new space will be very much appreciated.

We will also be collecting nonperishable items for the Erie Food Bank.

Please register at the check in table when arriving! We will have volunteers to help you register to vote, and we also want to have an accurate count of who attended. There were about 270 people at last year's picnic. If you like, there are also name tags that you can put your first name, full name and/or screen name.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com or browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

*Everybody's
Welcome!*

2004

Special Upcoming Picnic Issue!
June 12, 2004 at Rotary Pavilion



In This Issue...

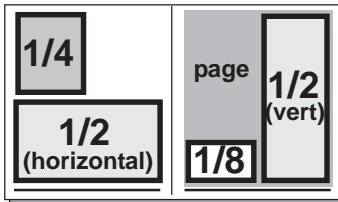
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On the Cover...

2003 Pride Picnic photo montage

Photos by Deb Spilko, layout by MAL

EGN Ad Rates



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

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



Erie Gay News
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Erie PA 16502-1105
Phone: (814) 456-9833
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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 don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

To James von Loewe, Evan, Dave Amy, Tim, Neal, Brian, Norm Zymm & David for folding; Dave S, Marshall Snyder, Paula King & Jerry McCumber for distributing; Bob for proofreading & MAL for additional ad layout & etc. 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

May 29 - Sabrina & Co at Rascals (Jamestown NY)
701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

May 31 - Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival (Pittsburgh) North Park Lodge, 11:30 AM - 6:30 PM.
“Please note that the Zone will have a bus available to take you in style and comfort to the Picnic. Contact the Zone at (814) 459-1711 for fee/details. Proceeds from the event benefit SCSL and the Borrelli Aids Fund.” Phone: (412) 683-7676 Ext. 3. Email: memorialdaypicnic@comcast.net. Browse to <http://members.aol.com/scslpgh>.

May 31 - Memorial Day Patio Cookout, 7th annual event, Queen of Hearts, 134 Pine Ave SE, Warren, (330) 395-1100, www.onecom.net/guraqueen.

Jun 2 - “Always Our Children meets” (Erie PA)
Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Jun 5 - Toronto Gay Comic David MacLean at The Village 133 W 18th St, phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thevillageerie.com. See article on page 6

Jun 5 - UU Annual 125+ Family Garage Sale At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway 9 AM - 3:30 PM. “The church is located ½ mile north off Exit 27 on I-90 and approx. 2 ½ miles south of the Zoo at W 38th & Perry Hwy. Numbers at the door at 8 AM. There will be tools, pools, dishes, toy fishes, shirts, skirts and even sinks and drinks. The list is endless. To donate items call Mary at 734-5337.”

Jun 6 - HUGS East at Geneva-on-the-Lake (440) 205-9949 whitvaik@hotmail.com

Jun 11-13 - (GIFT) Gay Invitational Fellowship Tournament (Cleveland) Annual bowling tournament, www.clevelandgift.org, (216)631-9811.

Jun 12 - GIFT Cruise (Cleveland), 216-631-9811, Aboard the Goodtime III www.clevelandgift.org

Jun 12- Birds n Bees Underwear Party at the Zone (Erie PA) 1711 State St, (814) 459-1711.

Jun 12 - Fantasy Island at Rascals (Jamestown NY)
From Buffalo. 701 N. Main (716)484-3220.

(continued inside)

Northwestern Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

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Visit Our Website At: www.northwestalliance.org

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ERIE PRIDE

P • I • C • N • I • C

2004

Saturday, June 12, 2004
At Presque Isle
2PM until Sunset

New Location!
Rotary Pavilion

Across from Beach,
near Waterworks Cabins



For more information call:
814-456-9833



email info@eriegaynews
visit <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

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Second Harvest Food Bank.

Calendar

Jun 12 - Erie Pride Picnic (Presque Isle State Park)
Rotary Pavilion 2 PM - 6 PM. Annual Picnic Email:
info@eriegaynews.com.

Jun 13 - The Village Jazz Brunch ON HIATUS!
“Due to the plethora of outdoor events and the many chores that call us outside in the summer, The Village will be taking a hiatus on summer brunches and looks forward to seeing everyone at the Pride Week Brunch in September. In the meantime, any feedback on menus, music or requests may be directed to village@velocity.net (attention Leslie). The Village is still open on Sundays from 5 PM - 2 AM.”

Jun 14 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Jun 15 - On TV: Independent Lens “The Amasong Chorus: Singing Out” 10 PM on PBS (WQLN-Erie, WNED-Buffalo) Documentary about a lesbian music student who creates a lesbian choir in the middle of a conservative Illinois community. Check local listings.

Jun 15 - Deadline for July 2004 edition of Erie Gay News Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: 814-456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Jun 18 - Male strippers at Rascals (Jamestown NY)
701 N. Main, (716)484-3220.

Jun 18 & 19 - Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus “Singing With Pride” (Buffalo) 8 PM. Tickets, locations: Tickets@BuffaloGayMensChorus.com or call (716)883-1277

Jun 19 - 10% Network meets: Ice Cream Social (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, 7:30 PM. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

Jun 20 - Gay Day at Cedar Point (Sandusky OH)
Unofficial annual event. Wear red or rainbow T-shirt!

Jun 25- Miss Erie Pageant at the Zone (Erie PA)
Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St, (814) 459-1711.

Jun 27 - National HIV Testing Day (see article last month). www.hivtest.org

Jul 3- Inpendance Daze at The Zone (Erie) 1711 State St, (814) 459-1711.

Jul 5 - PFLAG Meeting 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Jul 7 - Always Our Children meets (Erie PA) For Catholic parents of GLBT children. Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Jul 10 - Menspace meets: Bonfire/camp out (Venango PA) Jim & Greg’s, 20996 Kightlinger Rd. Combined event with 10% Network Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 15 - Deadline for August 2004 edition of Erie Gay News (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA) Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: 814-456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 17 - 10% Network meets: Cookout at Cousin Mike’s Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

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Entertainment

Gay stand-up comedian David MacLean at The Village June 5

Toronto-based actor and stand-up comedian David MacLean will perform his hilarious stand-up act at the Village Supper Club, located at 133 W 18th Street, on Saturday, June 5th for one show only.

David has been active as a performer for over a decade and a half. Originally trained as an actor, David's natural comedic gifts soon found him focussing on comedy in a variety of forms.

Before going solo David worked with the Toronto sketch troupe, Bucket of Pucks, participating as both a writer and performer. The troupe's show, *Performance Fit*, proved one of the highlights of the 1996 Toronto Fringe Festival. David's parody of Sister Wendy, the art-critic nun was the show's standout.

As a stand-up comic David has performed at Yuk Yuks, the Laugh Resort, Club 54, and the Rivoli in Canada, and at StandUp New York, Don't Tell Mama and the New York Comedy Club in the United States. In addition, David has appeared at numerous universities, festivals and resorts.

David has performed in numerous film and television projects. He has been seen in *Queer as Folk*, *Elvira Kurt's Adventures in Comedy*, *PSI Factor*, the Nickelodeon children's series *Animorphs* and the television movie, *Marciano*. David has also acted in numerous television commercials.

In the early nineties David toured a one-man show he had written entitled *Quarantine of the Mind* to twenty-two cities in Canada and the United States. David's direct, honest exploration of a gay man's reaction to the AIDS crisis won him many accolades. The show received rave reviews in the Village Voice, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Houston Chronicle and Canada's national newspaper the Globe & Mail.

For more info on David visit his website at www.funnygayguy.com



DAVID MACLEAN

On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Margaret Cho at the Improv in Homestead PA, May 28-29 Ticket Info: 412-462-5233

Lucy-Desi Festival May 28-30 in Jamestown NY. Tours, fun, contests, auction, picnic, film screenings, and more. On Saturday May 29 Jim Bailey—renowned female illusionist, character actor, singer, and comedian—visits Lucy's hometown for a memorable evening of unexpected fun, storytelling, and musical surprises with his special guest, Lucie Arnaz. As an added bonus, they'll screen the 1972 *Here's Lucy* episode in which Jim guest stars as himself and Phyllis Diller, too! 8 PM, Reg Lenna Civic Center, 116 E. Third Street. www.lucy-desi.com

Toronto Gay Comic David MacLean at The Village June 5. 133 W 18th St, Erie PA, phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thevillageerie.com. See article on page 6

Funny Gay Guy - David MacLean Buffalo United Artists/Main Street Cabaret, 672 Main St, Buffalo NY. June 17 7 PM & 9:30 PM. \$12/person (tickets available at the door.) For more information on David visit his website - www.funnygayguy.com Featuring special guest, Buffalo's own Alicia Hoffman.

Pittsburgh Pride Theatre Festival June 17-27. Eight one-act plays—six by Pittsburgh playwrights plus works by Paul Rudnick and Terry Baum. At Penn Theatre, 4809 Penn Ave., in Bloomfield PA. \$10 adv./\$12 at door. Box office (412) 441-2213. Presented by the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company.

Funny Girl at Ashtabula's Straw Hat Theater June 25-July 10 (440) 964-3396

Vampire Lesbians of Sodom (Buffalo United Artists/Main Street Cabaret, 672 Main St, Buffalo NY) Jul 23 - Aug 23 Phone: (716) 886-9239. Browse to <http://www.buffalobua.org>.

Websites and email lists for appearances by area performers:

Greg Ropp www.gregropp.com

Jocelyn Porter Project www.playerie.com/artists/jocelyn_porter/

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

Two Girls Alone <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com>
email list: twogirlsalone@att.net.

Pride 2004

Dates for Pride events in the region are here.

June 4 - June 6 Pride Buffalo www.pridebuffalo.org
(716) 879-0999

June 12 - Erie Pride Picnic Presque Isle (New location—Rotary Pavilion!) For more info, browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com> or contact Michael Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com, (814)456-9833.

June 19 - Pittsburgh PrideFest Street fair and parade www.glccpgh.org

June 19 - Cleveland Pride Parade and Festival, (216) 371-0214, www.clevelandpride.org.

June 21-27 - Toronto Pride www.pridetoronto.com

June 26 - Columbus Pride Parade and Festival (614) 299-7764.

July 9-11 Rochester Streets of Pride 2004 (Rochester NY) www.streetsofpride.com Tim Rhoades@usa.xerox.com

July 28-August 1 - Hotter Than July: Detroit Black Pride Festival, Detroit, MI (313) 567-1863. www.hotterthanjuly.com

July 30-August 1 - Toronto Black Pride (416) 925-9875; www.torontoblackpride.com

July 31 - PrideFest 2004 Central PA (Harrisburg PA) Riverfront Park. www.harrisburgpride.org

August 5-8 - Black Unity Pride Celebration (Cleveland) (216) 472-3474. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/blackunitycelebration>

August 6-8 - Pittsburgh Unity Black Pride (412) 657-0142. peerpastors@hotmail.com

✳️ *U.S. citizens traveling into Canada must have two forms of ID: birth certificate (or passport), plus driver's license (or other government photo ID.) More at www.torontotourism.com*



Saturday, June 19, 2004

Visit www.glccpgh.org
for a listing of Pride Events

Produced by the Gay & Lesbian Community Center,
with the collaboration of GLENDA, GLSEN,
Persad Center, and the Youth Empowerment Project.

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HRC important update!

from Reid McFarlane and Michael Mahler

“Either make the (Erie) Human Relations Commission effective, or disband it,” said the Commission Chair, William McCarthy, before members of the Erie County Council on Wednesday, May 12th. Mr. McCarthy was asked to come before the County Council, at its Finance Committee meeting, to explain changes the Human Relations Commission wanted. Mr. McCarthy asked for three types of changes to make the ECHRC an effective body.

First, for the Erie County Human Relations Commission to qualify for federal funding, six Ordinance changes are required to become “substantially equivalent” to Federal Fair Housing Law. Second, the Ordinance needs to be modified to limit liability and give flexibility to the Commission. One change was urged by the County administration because they are concerned that the right to appeal to the Court of Common Pleas could entail substantial legal expenses. So this right is limited to housing cases, which is required by Federal Fair Housing Law. Other changes give the Commission flexibility, to meet and operate outside the Court House, have a legal advisor when sitting as a Hearing Panel, and be directly responsible for hiring and firing its own staff. To enable the Commission to hire the staff requires clarifying the Commission’s role in the County’s Administrative Code. The Home Rule Charter of Erie County allows the County Council to create the Commission under its control rather than under the control of the County Executive.

To summarize these changes, Mr. McCarthy presented a simple graphic to show the correct and proposed structure of the Commission.

These recommendations have been reviewed by the Council’s new solicitor, Attorney Tony Logue, and he recommended adoption. Mr. McCarthy, who is CEO of Stairways Behavioral Health is an unpaid Commissioner appointed by County Councilman Mark Divecchio. Mr. McCarthy said that he and many other citizens and government officials believe the Commission plays an important role in the community, but without these changes, the Human Relations Commission has insufficient funding, no staff and no adjudicative role for Commissioners.

According to Doug Smith, County Council Clerk, the proposed legislation will be presented to the County Council’s Finance Committee on May 27th. Then it may be placed on the Agenda for First Reading June 1st and Second Reading June 15th. June 1st and 15th will both be public meetings and we’ll need you there.

Please note! The Erie County Human Relations Commission ordinance was revised in 2002 to include sexual orientation and gender identity. These are NOT currently covered by the state. If the Erie County Human Relations Commission can’t investigate local claims, then GLBT people will be left with no way to have current laws enforced in cases of discrimination. We need everyone possible to attend the Erie County Council meetings at the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W 6th St at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 1 (the day after Memorial Day) for the First Reading and at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 15 (3 days after the Erie Pride Picnic) for the Second Reading.

Women’s festivals

Dates and contact info for women’s festivals in our region:

Jul 17 - Ithaca Women’s Music Festival (Ithaca NY) info@ithacacommonground.com.

Browse to www.ithacacommonground.com.

Jul 22 - 25 - National Women’s Music Festival (Columbus OH) Browse to <http://www.wiaonline.org/nwfmf>.

August 6-8 - Wimfest (near Akron OH) (330) 219-0409 campsite reservations: (330) 896-1381, and wimfest@hotmail.com www.wimfest.com

August 10 to 15 - Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, 29th annual event, near Hart, Mich., www.michfest.com, (231) 757-4766, WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458.

September 18 - Ohio Lesbian Festival, 15th annual all-day music festival, 11 am to 11 pm, Frontier Ranch, 8836 York Rd. at U.S. 40, ½ mile west of Kirkersville, Ohio, 15 miles east of Columbus; (614) 267-3953; www.ohiolba.org.

National News Briefs

by Bob

Maine Passes Domestic Partnership Law

The state of Maine has past legislation making same-sex couples in long-term committed relationships eligible for some of the same benefits married couples have in the state.

Gov. John Baldacci (D) signed the domestic partnership bill that extends rights such as inheritance eligibility, victim's compensation, guardian rights and next-of-kin status to gay and straight couples who live together under long-term arrangements.

In signing the bill, the Governor said he wanted to demonstrate the state's commitment to civil rights for all citizens. Maine becomes the fifth state to pass statewide laws that provide rights to unmarried couples.

"This law helps a couple when they may most need legal protection," said Betsy Smith, executive director of Equality Maine. Smith was one of the leaders who helped push through the legislation.

"When your partner dies, it is a very hard time in your life and you may need protection no matter how supportive your family is. Even without a will, under this law someone in a domestic partnership can be able to keep the house and keep their shared property," Smith said.

California Court to Hear Marriage Arguments

The California Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on May 25 about the legality of San Francisco's decision to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

According to the Associated Press, the seven-member court said it would reserve two hours for the proceedings. The justices will then have 90 days to make a ruling.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer and the conservative Alliance Defense Fund are asking the court to declare that San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom overstepped his authority by allowing same-sex marriages in the city. They contend the action defied state law.

The Mayor contends however, that he was doing his duty to uphold the California Constitution,

which forbids discrimination. City attorneys are relying on such constitutional claims in defending Newsom.

The high court has also asked interested parties to file briefs on whether the 4,000 same-sex marriages in San Francisco should be nullified if the court rules in Lockyer's favor.

CDC Urges Change in STD Treatment

Increased cases of a drug-resistant strain of gonorrhea is prompting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to urge physicians to change the standard treatment for the sexually transmitted disease (STD) in gay and bisexual men.

For some time, the most common treatment for gonorrhea has been the antibiotic Cipro, one of a class of drugs called fluoroquinolones. But the CDC has found gonorrhea is becoming increasingly resistant to

(continued next page)

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National News Briefs

(continued from previous page)

fluoroquinolones, particularly among gay and bisexual men.

The new warning was prompted by a CDC study of men treated for sexually transmitted diseases at clinics in 23 U.S. cities. The study found that among men who have sex with other men, the proportion of drug-resistant gonorrhea cases nearly tripled from 1.8 percent of cases in 2002 to 4.9 percent in 2003. This rate is 12 times higher than the rate among heterosexual men (0.4 percent).

The CDC is now advising doctors to treat gay and bisexual men with injectable antibiotics such as ceftriaxone or spectinomycin.

EGN DEADLINE

is the

15th of the month!

Please email to info@eriegaynews.com

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Downtown Erie

Democrats Seek to Increase Number of GLBT Delegates

Fifteen state Democratic parties have set goals to increase the number of GLBT delegates they will send to the 2004 National Convention. This is more than double the number of states that set such goals for the 2000 convention.

In 2000, 212 self-identified GLBT delegates from states made up the convention's delegate pool of over 4,300 people.

This year, 15 states and Puerto Rico have set goals for the number of GLBT delegates to be sent to the 2004 convention in Boston, July 26-29. The states are: California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Rhode Island.

While these specific states and one territory have set GLBT delegate goals, the DNC is encouraging Democratic parties in every state to send GLBT delegates to the national convention, according to Eric Stern, the DNC's director of GLBT outreach.

Iowa Rejects Gay Man's Appointment

A majority in the Iowa State Senate voted to reject the appointment of an openly gay man to the state's school board.

Jonathan Wilson, an attorney who served 12 years on the Des Moines school board, was nominated to the state board by Democratic Gov. Tom Vilsack. However, a majority of the state senators rejected the nomination, saying Wilson's homosexuality ran counter to their religious beliefs.

The opposition to Wilson's appointment was led by Republican Sen. Ken Veenstra who last year, led the unsuccessful attempt to ban adoptions by gays and lesbians in Iowa.

During the confirmation debate, Veenstra outed fellow senator Matt McCoy on the senate floor. McCoy, a Democrat, later confirmed that he is gay, and accused Veenstra and other lawmakers of "trying to institute a state religion."

(continued next page)

National News

More Companies Offering Domestic Partnership Benefits

A new study conducted by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) shows domestic partnership benefits for U.S. same-sex couples are quickly becoming more common in the workplace.

The study shows that during 2003, an average of three new companies a day joined the ranks of businesses that offer domestic partnership benefits. This 18 percent increase in companies offering such benefits represents the same growth rate tracked in 2002.

“By adding benefits and protections during a stormy economy, the private sector continues to demonstrate that treating employees fairly is good for the bottom line,” Cheryl Jacques, president of HRC, said.

In 2003, more than 1,000 private businesses, universities and colleges added the benefits for gay employees. Now 40 percent of all the Fortune 500 companies have such benefits.

It was also noted in the study that 12 cities or counties added benefits for the partners of their gay employees, and this year some cities may go even further. New York City, which already has domestic partnership benefits for city employees, passed a bill requiring all private contractors that do business with the city to offer domestic partnership benefits to their own employees. It is not known however, whether Republican Mayor Michael Bloomberg will sign the measure into law.

Republicans Censure County Clerk

The Republican Central Committee for Sandoval County New Mexico has censured County Clerk Victoria Dunlap for issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The GOP committee call Dunlap a disgrace to the party. “Other than assassination, all we can do is censure her,” said Richard Gibbs, a member of the Republican Central Committee.



PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie Chapter

PFLAG Activities

PFLAG's OUTRAGEOUS Bingo, May 15th, was a fun time for all. We had a smaller group than usual, but everyone enjoyed themselves. Good cash prizes were awarded, and of course, the home-baked sweets were a treat! PFLAG thanks our bingo committee and everyone who helped them make the evening a success. We'll keep you posted when we set a date for the next bingo party.

PFLAG visited with Edinboro students on April 20th. It was good to see how the Gay-straight alliance, Identity, at Edinboro helps students cope with coming out, harassment, and other issues that GLBT college students face.

The past month or so, PFLAG has joined other GLBT supporters in helping our fellow Pennsylvanians to recognize the urgency of preventing Pennsylvania legislators from discriminating against GLBT citizens. Now that the legislature is back in session, we need to keep on our guard against conservative legislators, who are likely to resume their tactics of adding antigay amendments to bills. PFLAG forwarded letters from some members and supporters, to their representatives in Harrisburg, and we urge you all to write or call your state representatives, asking them to look for these unfair tactics that not only demean the dignity of GLBT citizens, but also subvert the true purpose of a democratic government.

Meeting Notes

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: June 14 (two days after the pride picnic!). The meeting will be at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie, from 7 to 9 PM. (Take exit 27 off of Rte 90, and go north about a half mile). In addition to this regularly-scheduled meeting, PFLAG will hold ad hoc meetings, as needed. (For example, for parents who have just recently been informed that their child is gay, or for spouses of GLBT people). To contact PFLAG, call Maureen (814-898-8341), email us at pflagerie@adelphia.net, or write to P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

Human rights

Sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners condemned

Editor's note: There have been a number of articles and opinions written by gay activists condemning the sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners. This statement from the GLBT Metropolitan Community Church (below) is perhaps the most accessible for non-Muslim gay readers.

Statement From Metropolitan Community Churches

May 2004

The members of Metropolitan Community Churches share a collective sense of horror and indignation at the images taken from within prisons in Iraq and at allegations of abuse by United States troops.

When Jesus himself was arrested, he condemned the use of violence and said, "No more of this!" (Luke 22:51). As Christ's followers, we echo his words and speak them now to the governments responsible, particularly to the United States as the leader of the war in Iraq, and say, "No more of this!"

As people of faith, we adamantly believe that all people are entitled to humane treatment, free of torture, degradation and abuse. Metropolitan Community Churches joins a growing chorus of international voices in condemning the conduct that occurred in the Iraqi prisons as violations of commonly held moral tenets and accepted international standards.

Metropolitan Community Churches especially condemns the use of sexuality as an instrument of torture, shame, and intimidation. Our physical bodies and sexuality are good gifts that God has given us, to be used wisely, for our pleasure and wholeness. There can be no justification for forcing sexual acts upon human beings against their will. That prisoners were forced to perform sexual acts that violate their religious principles and personal consciences is particularly heinous.

For more GLBT commentary on the sexual humiliation and torture of prisoners in US custody, view press releases at the Al-Fatiha website www.al-fatiha.net

It is also a sign of our society's deeply troubled relationship with sexuality that homosexual acts were considered by the perpetrators to the acceptable forms of torture, shame and humiliation.

We are further deeply disappointed to learn that the governments of United States, Great Britain and Australia were informed of the prison violations many months ago, yet took no public action to stop it.

In response to these horrific events, we encourage all people of good will to call upon their governments to ensure a full investigation of the conditions under which prisoners in all coalition-run facilities are detained, to hold accountable those who are responsible for these gross violations of human rights, and to work diligently to prevent such conditions in the future. We fully condemn the use of torture, including physical abuse and sexual violation, as part of any strategy in any war.

As a Christian denomination with churches and ministries in 22 countries, Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) pledges to continue to work for a world in which all people are treated with dignity and equality and where sexuality is celebrated, respected and used for good.

**The Reverend Dr. Troy D. Perry
Moderator
Metropolitan Community Churches**

Online Voter Registration

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Erie Gay News
www.eriegaynews.com

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Letters

Encounter with homophobia

As you know, I'm a member and supporter of PFLAG, and helped out with their February, 2004 Bingo, by running a Chinese auction. Through the enlistment of the gals from my Wednesday night 'Dinner Club' - I was able to secure a number of great baskets for auction. The Glenwood YMCA, Walker House Antiques, Jafra, Potratz Floral and Greenhouse, Lynch's Home Medical Supply, Matthew's Trattoria, Dempsey and Baxter were all very supportive and generous in their donations to the auction. We even had an electrolysisist, Michelle Blystone, who donated several sessions while at the auction. Even places I stopped at that weren't in a position to donate were professional and courteous. Most of the people I met on my endeavors for the auction were much like myself, never blinking an eye at the cause, PFLAG, or viewing the GLBT community as any different than themselves. Somehow, this seemed to comfort me, at some level.

Meanwhile, I'd stopped at a jewelry store owned by an old classmate of mine and her husband. I had essentially grown up with this woman, frequented her store, and spent a great deal of money there. I thought I knew this woman well. Talk about walking around with your head in the clouds.

I learned while I was at their place that their business was frequented by a number of "gays and lesbians." (How they could *tell* I still cannot fathom...) I was told that they were not comfortable supporting anything that "promoted the GLBT lifestyle." Trying to explain what PFLAG's mission was led to a lengthy and disconcerting conversation that well illustrated our differences in thought. I left there angry, hurt and questioning how a person I believed I knew, could be so closed-minded. I'd never really encountered a situation this personal before. Sure, I've had idiots make snide comments, but never a person I cared about. It was then, and only then, after 15+ years of being involved with the GLBT community, that I realized what prejudice remains in our society. I always thought 'normal' people just thought like I do, that we're all created equal. It was only some of the politicians and

religious leaders that REALLY thought otherwise, I'd thought.

The situation also drove home what GLBT people encounter daily, from their families, to their workplace, to John Q. Public. Some are fortunate enough to have wonderful support systems. Others aren't so lucky.

Our constitution clearly opens with "We the people..." That means *us*. As in *all of us*. Until we're recognized as a part of *us* it is imperative that we all make a concerted effort to educate, become politically/religiously, or otherwise involved. I think I may have had half of my head in the sand in thinking that everyone has an open-minded opinion like mine. They don't. Realizing this has only caused me to become more staunch in my efforts. I hope reading this causes someone... anyone... everyone... to become more aware and more staunch as well.

Sincerely,
Jayne May

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EGN
Erie Gay News



Elections

PA-GALA: Anti-Gay campaigns backfire

by Steve Black,

Political Director Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance

The results from Tuesday April 27's primary election are good news for gay and lesbians in Pennsylvania. PA-GALA congratulates all of our endorsed candidates who won in the primary, and we look forward to continue working with them on issues of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Pennsylvania.

We are very heartened to see that in the few races where candidates made blatant antigay appeals, those tactics backfired. In the Republican primary for the 15th Congressional District, Brian O'Neill attempted to stir up prejudice through a series of inflammatory mailings depicting two gay men holding hands. State Senator Charles Dent easily won this race despite his opponent's repeated attacks on Dent's 2001 vote in favor of the Hate Crimes Bill. O'Neill finished a distant third with less than 16% of the vote.

State Representative Steven Nickol from the 193rd District also handily triumphed in the Republican primary. He defeated a challenger who highlighted Nickol's vote in favor of the Hate Crimes bill as evidence that Nickol did not represent the values of the people he represents. Nickol easily won the race with over 2/3's of the vote in the district that includes parts of rural York and Adams Counties.

Then there was the race for the Republican nomination for Attorney General. The losing candidate, Bruce Castor, made opposing gay marriage one of his priorities, even though Pennsylvania already has a Defense of Marriage Act. Castor ran antigay radio ads and went so far as to threaten to arrest and prosecute any same-sex couple who attempted to apply

for a marriage license and any county official who processed the application. We thank the majority of the Republican voters who were not fooled by Castor's attempt to exploit antigay bias for political gain.

PA-GALA applauds the voters of Pennsylvania who focused on important issues when they cast their ballots and did not allow themselves to be distracted by divisive and prejudicial appeals. Republican voters rejected the candidates who ran antigay campaigns. The election results show antigay campaigns do not work and actually backfired on the three candidates who used the tactic. PA-GALA looks forward to the day when no politician uses lesbians and gays as political footballs.


Contact information: PA-GALA Steve Black, Political Director P.O. Box 20825 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610)863-4961 steve@pa-gala.org browse to <http://pa-gala.org/new/>

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2004 Outmusic Awards Nominees

The Board of Outmusic is please to announce the nominees for the 2004 Outmusic Awards. We wish to express our gratitude to all the submitting artists. Information about the nominees including streaming audio of select songs is now online at <http://www.outmusic.com>

Outstanding New Recording - Female

Namoli Brennet: *Welcome To The Afterglow*; Catie Curtis: *Aconstic Valentine* KJ; Denhert: *Girl Like Me*; Janis Ian: *Working Without A Net*; Pamela Means: *Single Bullet Theory*

Outstanding Debut Recording - Female

Andrea Bunch: *Numinous*; Julie Clark: *Feel Free*; Janell Rock: *Quiet Thrill*; Jen Foster: *Everybody's Girl*; Kaz Mitchell: *The Dinner Party*

Outstanding New Recording - Male

Johnny Dangerous: *Dangerous Liasons*; Brady Earnhart: *Manalapan*; Adam Joseph: *How I Seem To Be*; Nhojj: *Someday Peace Love & Freedom*; Rufus Wainwright: *Want One*

Outstanding Debut Recording - Male

Johnny Dangerous: *Dangerous Liasons*; Steven Franz: *The One You Choose*; Adam Joseph: *How I Seem To Be*; Andrew Spice: *Pretty Demons*; Jim Verraros: *Unsaid And Understood*

Outstanding New Recording - Duo Or Group

Girlyman: *Remember Who I Am*; Junior Senior: *D-d Don't Don't Stop The Beat*; Justus Boyz: *Uh-oh*; Testosterone Kills: *War All The Time*; Wishing Chair (with Kara Barnard): *Dishpan Brigade*

Outstanding New Recording - Band

The Bootlickers: *Automatic Ball Cleaner*; Danielle Lo Presti & The Masses: *22 Mountains*; D1: *The Music Is So Beautiful*; Skin Jobs: *Burn Your Rainbow*; Super 8 Cum Shot: *Super 8 Cum Shot Volume Ii*

Outstanding New Recording - Chorus Or Choir

Boston Gay Men's Chorus: *Razzle Dazzle - The Broadway Hits Of Kander & Ebb*; Heartland Men's Chorus: *Let Heaven & Nature Swing*; Portland Gay Men's Chorus: *Holiday Serenade*; Transcendence Gospel Choir: *Whosoever Believes*; The Women's Chorus of Dallas: *Season Of Dreams*

Outstanding New Recording - Instrumental

Terry Duggins & The Zither Band: *The Coleman's March - A Jean Ritchie Tribute*; Metropolitan Klezmers: *Surprising Finds*; Drew Paralic: *Blue Passion*; Thomas

Raniszewski: *A Midnight At A Time*; Rothko . BLK w/ Bear: *Wish For A World Without Hurt*

Outstanding Producer

Ashley Moore (Transcendence Gospel Choir): *Whosoever Believes*; Cathy Richardson (Cathy Richardson Band): *The Road To Bliss*; Rachael Sage & Andy Zulla (Rachael Sage): *Public Record*; Eve Sicular (Isle of Klezbos): *Greetings From The Isle Of Klezbos*; Jinx Titanic (Super 8 Cum Shot): *Super 8 Cum Shot Volume Ii*

Outstanding Songwriter

Michael Holland: songs from *Beach Toys Won't Save You*; Deidre McCalla: songs from *Playing For Keeps*; Rachael Sage: songs from *Public Record*; Rufus Wainwright: songs from *Want One*; Leah Zicari: songs from *Pretty On Thursday*

Outmusician Of The Year

Freddy Freeman; Skott Freedman; Kris Landherr; Alix Olson; Robert Urban

Out Song Of The Year

Crucify: written by Kristina Jean /performed by Sister Funk; *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*: written and performed by Robert Urban; *Double My Wardrobe*: written & performed by Steven Franz; *Flow With My Soul*: written & performed by Adam Joseph; *Give It Up*: written by Tony Moran, Keith Fluitt & Guiseppe DiCaccamo Jr. /performed By Kevin Aviance; *He's On My Team*: written & performed by Ari Gold and Kendra Ross; *Honest World*: written & performed by Catie Curtis; *Proud And Free*: written by Jon Gilbert Leavitt / performed by Deian McBryde; *Waiting For My Man*: written & performed by Kris Landherr; *We Belong*: written & performed by Namoli Brennet

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Festivals

WIMFest: "Something new for the ladies!"

by Donna

Ladies, are you wondering what you can do to bring a perfect ending to your summer's fun? Why not give the new Women's Festival in Akron Ohio a try?

This festival is celebrating its maiden year, with a line up befitting Lilith Fair. Headlining this year's festival will be Lucie Blue Tremblay, SONiA, Halcyon, Wishing Chair, CommonbonD, and comedian Julie Goldman. There will be a special guest appearance by IBA Women's Heavy Weight Champion Vonda Ward and Team Ward.

Also joining the main stage line up are many other talented women: Emcee/Playboy Centerfold Stephanie Adams, Robin Stone, Alexis Antes, Frozen Feet, Christine Havrilla, Katie Reider, Lori Wyatt, The Beth Davis Band, Red Letter Day, Two Girls Alone, Leah Zacari, Christine Martucci, Burning Sage, Lojo Russo, Kindred, Mother Jane, Emily Zuzik, Natalie Darkes, Troubadours of Divine Bliss, with Skarlet O'hara & Jealous Pet (formerly The Strap-Ons) coming in from Canada to entertain you and for your visual pleasure Fire & Desire, two sexy, sensually talented women who will take it off tastefully and keep you wanting more. There are also a few surprises up our sleeve. Check the web site for more info and updates. www.wimfest.com

The festival has made its home at Pine Valley Lake Park & Campgrounds. The campground is centrally located and can be accessed easily by several main interstates and highways. Sitting on 68 breathtaking acres, the grounds are ready and waiting your arrival. For those of you who like to fish, there is a fully-stocked 8-acre lake nestled in the middle and anything you catch you can keep. Small watercrafts are welcome with trolling motors only please. There is a bath house and facilities on site and a general store. Reservations for campsites are recommended to guarantee a space. Please call (330) 896-1381, and see camp rules for further information. Also note ...your dog is welcome for a small fee. (certain breeds excluded). If you do

not like to camp, there are accommodations still available at our host hotel, Comfort Inn (330-666-5050). There are also several other hotels within a 4 mile drive.

There is much more going on that weekend ... a Car, Truck, and Bike Show, Fishing Contest, Workshops, contests, raffles, auctions, vendors/merchants, and meeting of new friends. We will also be giving away a weekend for two at an award-winning women's resort in Florida. You are welcome to BYOB and to bring food and other refreshments. Grills are welcome at your campsite. There will be food and drink available on site and adult beverages available in the general store along with ice, firewood, propane, and munchies.

So come camp, party, sing, dance, meet, relax, hangout, and join the fun of The Women's International Music Festival. Don't miss the event of the year!

Contact Donna @ 330-219-0409
www.wimfest.com and wimfest@hotmail.com. Tickets are available.

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HIV/AIDS

GLBT Health Focus Group

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

Today, The Erie County Dept. of Health has one of the largest HIV/AIDS awareness programs in Pennsylvania, targeting GLBT communities with an estimated reach of five thousand people in Erie, PA.

In Erie, we have been actively preparing for GLBT focus groups, which began, with our first contacts with Michael Mahler, Erie Gay News. It was through these first encounters that we learned about being gay friendly, how to educate and provide information about HIV and AIDS through the Gay News Website.

Through our alliances with PFLAG, Trigon, Identity and Erie Gay News, we have interacted with several GLBT in this effort. Trigon and Identity have launched their own AIDS awareness programs in the GLBT community on World AIDS Day, December 1st.

Abbey Atkinson, student leader of Trigon, affiliated with Penn State University, and Michael Lecker, student leader of Identity, affiliate program of Edinboro University, started annual HIV education events at their school with the Erie County Dept. of Health. It is our hope that they will continue to conduct HIV/AIDS prevention education awareness programs in their community.

Students from both colleges meet to learn about AIDS, listen to people who are living with the disease, and forge an alliance. Abbey Atkinson has an annual "Gay/Straight Alliance Luncheon" working with the health department to heighten awareness about the needs of GLBT. Brochures and pamphlets about HIV are on hand to impart scientific and biological information about the replication process of HIV, and prepare the students to introduce and initiate health HIV/AIDS programs within their GLBT activities. Leaders tie in specific needs of the group to reinforce sexual health issues and values within the framework of public health.

Michael Lecker single handedly initiated the very first GLBT "World AIDS Day" on campus at Edinboro University. The program included red ribbons, a candle light ceremony, an observance, and a program at the Student Union. Michael is to be congratulated

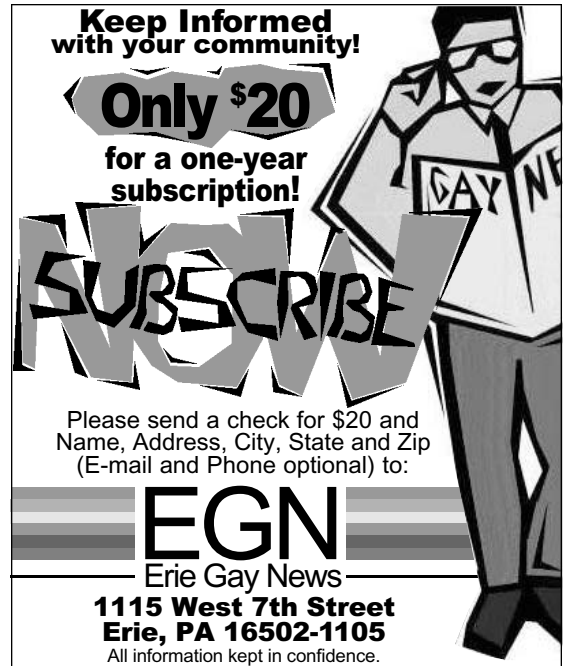
for his hard work, and for his efforts to affect behavior change.

Fifty percent of all new HIV infection is among people ages 15-24, yet many young people still lack information not only on sexual and reproductive and life skills, but also negotiation, decision making, and communication.

HIV statistics continue to remain high in the GLBT community. Each outreach activity brings together GLBT and straight to work in concert with local HIV/AIDS educators and outreach workers.

We are preparing to launch a focus group to better determine the needs of GLBT community, and to serve their health needs, specifically sexual health issues, such as STD or HIV. Erie County Dept. of Health provides these services to the community on a regular basis and has worked in concert with other organizations to further the effort of HIV education

(continued next page)



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HIV/AIDS, GLBT focus group

(continued from previous page)

by being members of the S.T.O.P. project. (Street Outreach Prevention).

Michael Mahler has invited us to all the Gay Pride Events, the Rally, the Picnic, for years now and we have grown as a prevention education team. Michael is the force for change in the GLBT community. He takes a stand and continues to provide (tirelessly I might add) quality information from a variety of sources for the GLBT community. I am proud to be a contributing editor.

The Erie County Dept. of Health invites all GLBT persons who have not yet joined this crusade for HIV/AIDS education, prevention, service and compassion to join us now! Currently the worldwide AIDS pandemic continues to affect GLBT around the country and around the world.

Maureen Koseff is the director of PFLAG and has forged an alliance with the Erie County Dept. of Health to promote awareness for the masses to inform them of the mothers, friends, families who face problems with their children, and how to resolve certain issues. She is to be congratulated for her efforts in

the community, as she has made a significant impact among the youth at several schools and colleges in our area.

These types of approaches towards the fight against HIV/AIDS increase the reach and impact of HIV prevention education health interventions directed to people to break the silence in their GLBT communities. Building community support for behavior change also is essential, to ensure that young people find approval for their actions and have access to services.

The Erie County Dept. of Health invites all GLBT to participate in a focus group. We will begin these on Friday, July 2nd, and Friday August 6th at 11:30 AM at the Erie County Dept. of Health. Please join us for lunch, we are located at 606 West Second Street, on the corner of Second and Cherry. To make reservations, or for more information, please call Patty Puline at 451-6543 or 572-3155.

Please join us. Only we can make this happen.

Patty Puline, Health Educator
Erie County Dept of Health
Erie Gay News Contributing Writer

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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

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Erie Office, Outreach Services
(814) 451-6732

Erie County Health Department
Corry Office - (814) 663-3891

Hispanic American Council
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This & That

by Deb Spilko

Picnic photos

Folks who attend the Pride Picnic know we like to take lots of photos of the people attending the picnic. Last year, I was the photographer, and I would like to discuss a couple of things before I do it again this year. Individuals have very different feelings about having their photos taken. Some people love the idea, others feel it violates their personal space, and still others might resent it their photo doesn't get taken. Here's what I would like to try this year: If you would like to have your photo taken, come up to me and let me know, and I'll be happy to do so. I do take a fair number of natural unposed photos, but if this bothers you, please let me know by saying "No thanks" or putting up a hand or something. If you can think of other ways to deal with this issue, please let me know.

We do post photos on the EGN website, and if anyone is featured in a photo (as opposed to being in the background) we try to contact them before posting them

Pride Guide

Pride 04 is out. The free full-color official magazine of *Interpride 2004* is out at Erie bars, and may be placed in other locations as well. This year there are a number of photos from Erie's Pride Picnic, with Jeremy, Jason and an unidentified friend, John Daly King and his rainbow fan, and folks lining up to chow down. If you'd like to get a copy or want to carry them at your business or other location...or if you just want to pick up a copy for yourself, contact Mike Mahler at (814)456-9833.

Connecting

Pride events are a great way to meet people in your own community and out of town.

The Erie Pride Picnic is a mellow, friendly event that allows people to meet in a comfortable atmosphere.

Pride events are also a nice way to meet people in other cities. Been thinking about checking out that GLBT sci-fi group in Buffalo, or that youth group in Pittsburgh...but shy about walking into a room full of strangers? Marching with them in a pride event is a fairly comfortable way to ease your way into their com-

pany. Hey, on top of that, you also get your exercise and get to take a stand for equal rights.

Stonewall spirit

The month of June was chosen as Pride month because of the Stonewall Riots that took place in June of 1969 (this year marks the 35th anniversary). Stonewall has taken on an almost mythical significance for many gay people, as one of those important moments in history. It was important, but guess what... we are all in one of those moments right now. George Bush and the religious right are intent on turning back the clock on gay rights, and on individual rights in general. The country is very divided about these issues right now. One shudders to think what would happen with Bush in the White House for another four years. If you are not registered to vote, please do so now. If you *are* registered, please encourage others to do so. If you can volunteer or make a contribution to a campaign, this helps a lot as well. Over the next few months we will be carrying information on how to get involved. You don't have to be "into politics" to see the importance of this election year!

Accessibility at picnic

For people who have accessibility concerns, we are posting fairly detailed accessibility information and photos about the site of this year's picnic. (Rotary Pavilion). This is the most accessible area of the park, and the handicapped beach ramp is right across from the parking lot. Browse to picnic.eriegaynews.com if you need further information, or want to make special arrangements, please contact Mike Mahler before the picnic. (456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com)

Live music

Correction? Last month I ran a date for **Joan Armatrading** in Pittsburgh, but can't confirm that. Double check if you had plans to see her there.

Rachael Sage is at Buffalo Pride June 5 and 6 and Cleveland's Cain Park June 22 ... **Cleveland Pride Festival** will feature **Kate Clinton, RuPaul, Anne E. DeChant** and others on June 19... **Melissa Etheridge** will be in Cleveland June 11 at the Tower City Amphitheater, in Buffalo June 15 and June 25 at Shea's Performing Arts Center, and in Pittsburgh June 19 at Seven Springs Resort.

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