

August 2004



# EGN

Erie Gay News



Our readers tell us their favorite books and movies on page 4.

## Erie County HRC update

from Michael Mahler

There is an important vote by Erie County Council coming up about the Erie County Human Relations Commission ordinances. On Tuesday, July 13, County Council had a first reading of proposed ordinance changes. These ordinance changes are very important in that they would allow the ECHRC to qualify for matching HUD funds and also become more autonomous. County Executive Rick Schenker has been perceived by many as attempting to dismantle the ECHRC. These ordinance changes would help make the ECHRC active and vital again, and also allow them to actively investigate claims.

You can read an article about the proposed changes at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/news/article.php?recordid=200406hrc.html> (Please note that the dates listed in the original article were changed.)

It is very important that everyone contact their County Council representative and stress how important this legislation is! You can see current contact info at <http://www.eriecountygov.org/default.aspx?id=council>.

The Second Reading of the proposed ordinance changes is likely to be Tuesday, July 27 at 7 PM at the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W 6th St, Erie PA. (This is the usual location for most County Council meetings.) We will want to get as many people as possible to this meeting. (But be sure to check back so that we can confirm the date!) The Second Reading is when County Council actually would be voting. However, it is still important to contact them before hand (like now!) and let them know that they should support the proposed ECHRC ordinance changes.

## Rainbow Frog!



Janice Hanusik and Laurie Finch pose with the “unofficial” LeapFrog! that they mounted in their front yard. “We wanted something subtle for Pride month and I think our idea is pretty neat. The theme is Kermit the Frog and ‘The Rainbow Connection’ The excerpt from the song we chose was ‘Someday we’ll find it, the Rainbow Connection....The lovers, the dreamers, and Me.’ You can check out the frog yourself out front of our home on W 8th Street, (1800 block) if you have the occasion to drive past.”

A photo of Jan and Laurie’s rainbow Frog is also posted in the copycat section of the LeapFrog! website at [www.leapfrogerie.com](http://www.leapfrogerie.com)

The LeapFrog! Project is a public art project being held in Erie during the summer of 2004.

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**Erie Gay News**  
**1115 West 7th St.**  
**Erie PA 16502-1105**  
**Phone: (814) 456-9833**  
**Fax: (270)423-6217**  
**info@eriegaynews.com**  
**www.eriegaynews.com**

**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Graphics/Layout: MAL**  
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### On the Cover...

#### Rainbow Frog

*Photo by Janice Hanusik and Laurie Finch*

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 NW PA Area.

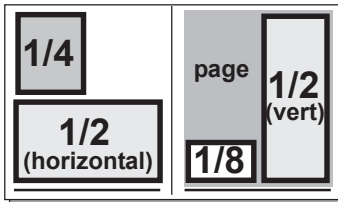
We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

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 Deadline for ads is the 15th

## Thank You:

To James von Loewe, Dave Amy, Tim, Jerry McCumber, Marshall Snyder for folding. Dave S, Marshall Snyder, Paula King, & Jerry McCumber for distributing. Bob & Julie 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.

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# Community announcements

## Crime Victim Center event: Annual Cruisin' Rods & Kustoms Jamboree

from *Angela B. Porfilio*  
*Crime Victim Center*

The Annual Cruisin' Rods & Kustoms Jamboree will be held July 31 and August 1, 2004. The event is open for registration to pre 1972 cars and trucks. Activities include a beach cruise on Saturday evening and on Sunday Sammy Slicker and the Blackjacks will perform from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club. There will be games, prizes, and refreshments. Awards are given to vehicle owners in various categories including "Charity's Choice" voted on by the Crime Victim Center staff and family members. The public is invited to attend on Sunday for the car show and to hear the band. Proceeds will benefit the thousands of men, women and children who receive assistance from the Crime Victims Center of Erie County.

Services provided by the Center include 24 hour a day crisis intervention, counseling, court accompaniment and help with filing for Crime Victims' compensation. Prevention/education programs are also offered for all ages of students in area schools on sexual abuse, bullying, Internet safety and other topics.

For more information about the Jamboree, call Carol DeSantis at (814) 476-0315 or Ray Struchen at (814) 474-5248.

*Community Announcements appear for free.  
Please include contact and attribution  
information.*

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## Local Pro athlete ready for 2004 season

By *Shari*

When Karen Morton set out in August 2003 to prepare for her first full season on the Ladies Pro Racquetball Association (LPRA) tour, she didn't expect a few things.

She didn't expect the overwhelming support from friends, family, and the Erie community who showed up at her party last August, helping her to raise critical funds for the considerable travel expenses that were to come. She was overwhelmed by the year-long support and generosity of her local sponsors, Two Friends Italian Market and Dr. Kris Nelson (Chiropractic Works.)

She didn't expect to take a game off of the number one player in the world, Cheryl Gudinas, at a pro stop in Albuquerque. She couldn't have imagined that her own original concept, artwork she co-created with Erie's Christelle DeCrease, would have been adopted by the LPRA as their new image.

However, she fully expected to compete hard enough to break into the top 20 players on the tour: And, that she did. Morton started the season ranked 25, and ended it at an incredible 14. Along the way, she garnered State and National Championship titles.

Morton's second season on the LPRA begins September, 2004, in Rosarito Beach, Mexico. Maintaining her rigorous training schedule throughout the off-season, she says that her sights are now set on achieving a spot in the top ten on the tour. To do it, she must play each of the pro stops and must improve her performance into the quarters and semis at each tournament.

You can join Karen and friends at the 2004 "Raise a Racquet" party; the proceeds will help to support Morton's LPRA tour participation. The party will be held on Sunday, August 29 from 2- 6PM at Jerry Uht Park at 10<sup>th</sup> & French Streets. The rain-or-shine party promises to be bigger and better this year, with music by 2 Girls Alone from 2-4PM, and the Dixie Doodlers Jazz from 4-6PM. Two Friends Italian Market, Karen's major sponsor, will provide fantastic food that party-goers can enjoy with beer provided by Erie Brewing Company, and wine by Mazza Vineyards. As with last year's event, there will be a silent auction, raffles, and other fun. Advance tickets are \$10 (available at Two Friends Italian Market, 10<sup>th</sup> & French) and \$15 at gate.

# What do you say?

*We asked the list "Seen any good movies lately? (current release or other)" Or... "Had any good beach reads?" Here's what you said:*

Okay: *Girl With A Pearl Earring* (on DVD now) is lovely, and easy to overlook. A wonderful book, now in paperback, is *The Secret Lives of Bees*, a novel by Sue Monk Kidd. Also, Clinton's book, *My Life*, is dandy (and every sale pisses off the right wing)!! But a really delicious little book (only \$12.95 in hardback) is Calvin Trillion's *Obliviously On He Sails* (poetry about Bush etc., most of which was originally published in *The Nation* magazine). Delightful!! **[Susan Woodland]**

I have been listening to *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman on cd (I borrowed it from the Erie library.) **[Paul in West Springfield]**

Although not really GLBT oriented, I recently saw *The Station Agent* and loved it! Also, Armistead Maupin's last book, *The Night Listener* is turning out to be a great read! **[J Motsch]**

I watched *Party Monster*. It was good but a little disturbing. **[Mark]**

Haven't seen anything lately, but *Bound* is an excellent action Lesbian movie.....check it out if you haven't. Take care! **[Lenora]**

Good movies lately? Three of 'em. One: Herk Harvey's 1962 *Carnival of Souls* -- totally bizarre, and a must-have for any collector of low-budget horror. Two: *Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood* -- my favorite part is Vivi and Teensy, two 60-something women, racing down the highway neck-and-neck: a hilarious scene. And third, the Natalie Wood version of *Gypsy* (another treat from '62): I just found it at Sun Coast Video and it's hard to resist the temptation to say to people, "Hello, everybody, my name's JONATHAN! What's YOURS!" **[Jonathan]**

I saw *Fahrenheit 9/11*. It was very powerful, deeply supportive of our country, our families, our troops. Made me realize how important it will be for us all to get out the vote in November 2004. **[Shari]**

The best movie I've seen lately: Pedro Almodovar's new one. I saw it in Paris, it's called *The Bad Education*, and it has some incredibly sexy shots of its heros. It's a kind of homage to Fifties films like *Laura*, and you have to work a bit to follow the narrative, as you have flash-backs nested within flash-backs. In any case, it is beautifully filmed and really enjoyable to watch. Hopefully it will come to the States soon. **[John]**

Anyone who is uncertain about who to vote for in the November election needs to see *Fahrenheit 9/11*. It is entertaining, thought-provoking, scary, disturbing and funny, all at the same time. Michael Moore may not have scored a home run, but he certainly loaded the bases, and there are no outs. **[Bob]**

*(continued next page)*

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# What do you say?

(continued from previous page)

Just finished reading *Why You Should Give A Damn About Gay Marriage* by Davina Kotulski, Ph.D., There are about 1,049 reasons why this is a good book, but what I like about it is that it explains things in simple terms. It also lists the difference between marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships and explains the rights that come with each. Also it lists web addresses in case you would like to research anything in the book in more depth. Although this was not "heavy" reading, on a lighter note, I am almost through Rita Mae Brown's newest mystery entitled *Whisker Of Evil*. It's from the "Mrs. Murphy" series of books co-authored with her cat, Sneaky Pie Brown. All the "Mrs. Murphy" mystery stories take place in Crozet Virginia, and involve Postmistress Mary Minor Haristeen ("Harry") and her two cats, Mrs. Murphy and Pewter and her Corgi dog, Tee Tucker. The pets don't talk out loud, but you know what they are thinking, as they help Harry solve the mystery. Definitely a beach novel, I read half of its 300 pages last Sunday afternoon. **[Laurie Finch]**

I've recently seen the independent film *Latter Days*, based off of the novel with the same name. This is about a party boy who falls for a Mormon missionary just starting to find himself. There were quite a few familiar faces and a lot of true to life, yet a little shocking scenes. I highly recommend buying it when the DVD is released. **[Greg Hilbert]**

It's been a busy summer, and I haven't had a chance to see a movie in the past month or so, but I am dying to see *Fahrenheit 9/11*! **[Laurie]**

I definitely recommend going to see *Spiderman 2*. A best friend, Brian, and I went to see the opening night/early AM. It is awesome, fast paced, sincere, action-packed, filled with lessons about life, and fun. Beneath all that Superhero action, suspense, and good vs. evil, a true story exists about someone being different or appearing weaker, who is going through life's battles for acceptance and suffering loneliness and harassment, while avenging the enemies. Sometimes this may cause us, non-superheros, too, to wear a mask or superhero outfit in our own lives. Always remembering that our life is also about choices and decisions to make tomorrow a better day. Examples include: attending Pride Functions, writing or calling Senators and/or Congress, showing up for public meetings concerning our group's interests, helping to volunteer in the GBLT community, what social circles we attend, and being sure that each of us does not practice or intentionally cause reverse/negative discrimination. An unknown author once wrote: "The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become."

~Go see *Spiderman 2* - it is really a great movie! Find out how much "Spidersense" that you hold.

PS. Tobey Maguire really knows how to fit into a Spidersuit. **[Mark H]**

Movies - *Mambo Italiano*, *Goodbye Lenin*, *Harry Potter*. Reads - *Angels & Demons*, *The Feast of Love*, *On Extended Wing & The Life of Pi* **[Paul]**


The best book I have read this summer has been the *Winds Of War* by Herman Wouk. It is an excellent book about the beginning of WWII. It follows a family who is being separated by the war. The father gets sent over seas as the US Naval attache' to Germany and gets an inside look of Hitler and how the German people respond to the restrictions of the Jewish people. It does have its dry moments when it goes into tactical information. Overall I would recomend this book to anyone. **[Laurie Y]**

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# Calendar

This calendar is also online at [www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html](http://www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html)

**Jul 23 - Drag Performance: Denise Russell at Zone Dance Club**, 1711 State St, Erie PA (814) 459-1711.

**Jul 23-25 - Dancin' Weekend 2004 (Cleveland)**  
Three days of dance parties to benefit the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland. Info: [www.dancinweekend.com](http://www.dancinweekend.com) [jprice@atfgc.org](mailto:jprice@atfgc.org) (216)357-2223.

**Jul 30 - At Chautauqua: B-52s in concert (Chautauqua, NY)** (800) 836-ARTS [www.clweb.org](http://www.clweb.org)

**Jul 30 - The Chautauqua/Cattaraugus/Allegheny Co. Gay Men's Social Group meets (Olean NY)**  
6 - 8 PM at Directions in Independent Living, 512 West State Street, Olean. For more information or activity ideas please contact Tom Place at (716) 664-7855 or [tomplace@aidscommunityservices.com](mailto:tomplace@aidscommunityservices.com).

**Jul 30-Aug 1 Toronto Black Pride**  
[www.torontoblackpride.com](http://www.torontoblackpride.com) "Toronto Black Pride 2004 - in conjunction with Caribana Weekend 04, North America's largest Caribbean Festival outside of the islands. [www.torontoblackpride.com](http://www.torontoblackpride.com)

**Aug 4- Always Our Children meets** Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

**Aug 5-8 - Black Unity Pride Celebration (Cleveland)** "Annual Cleveland festival of and for the LGBT African American community." Black, Proud and Gay Opening Celebration, Deviant Behavior Comedy Explosion, Fabulous Friday Happy Hour, Majestic Voyage, Don't Ask, Don't Tell-Fierce Masquerade Ball, Mini House Ball, State of Black Gay America Symposium, White Fantasia white attire affair, Sweat! dance party, In the Spirit Gospel service,

Black Proud and Gay Family Festival, T Dance and more ...info (216)937-2268, (216) 472-3474. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/blackunitycelebration>. [www.blackoutunlimited.org](http://www.blackoutunlimited.org)

**Aug 6 - 8 - Pittsburgh Unity Black Pride (Pittsburgh)** (412) 657-0142. [peerpastors@hotmail.com](mailto:peerpastors@hotmail.com).

**Aug 6 - 8 - Women's International Music Festival**  
Pine Valley Lake Park & Camping, 4936 S. Arlington Rd, North Canton OH. Phone # is for camping reservations and info only. Email [info@wimfest.com](mailto:info@wimfest.com). Host Hotel: Comfort Inn. (330) 896-1381. [wimfest@hotmail.com](mailto:wimfest@hotmail.com). [www.wimfest.com](http://www.wimfest.com).

**Aug 6 - 7 - 2 Girls Alone performance (International Women's Music Festival, North Canton OH)** 2 Girls Alone will be performing at the International Women's Music Festival in North Canton, Ohio on August 6 and 7. Note that the girls are currently scheduled to open the festival stage on Friday around 2 PM, and play again on the acoustic stage on Saturday afternoon. [www.wimfest.com](http://www.wimfest.com).

**Aug 7 - Menspace meets at Bruce's (Evans City, PA)** At Bruce Walker's home 1408 Evans City Road, Evans City, PA 4 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [gblueye@zoominternet.net](mailto:gblueye@zoominternet.net). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Aug 9 - PFLAG-Erie Meeting** At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. 7 - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: [pflagerie@adelphia.net](mailto:pflagerie@adelphia.net).

**Aug 10 - 15 - Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (Hart, MI)** Browse to [www.michfest.com](http://www.michfest.com).

*(continued next page)*

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# Calendar

**Aug 14 - Mr. Village Pageant at Village Supper Club (Erie, PA)** Drag king contest. 133 W 18th St. (814) 452-0125. Email: [village@velocity.net](mailto:village@velocity.net). web: [www.thevillageerie.com](http://www.thevillageerie.com).

**Aug 14 - Sabrina & Co. at Rascals (Jamestown, NY)** 701 N. Main, (716)484-3220.

**Aug 15 - Deadline for September 2004 edition of Erie Gay News**

**Aug 16 - Leather Ball (Toronto)** Weekend of parties and events Browse to [www.mrlt.com](http://www.mrlt.com).

**Aug 20 (Fri) - 10% Network meets: Cook at Dr. Neal's** 5:30 PM - 9 PM. "There will be a big change

for August. The picnic at Dr. Neal's will be on August 20th which is a Friday evening, starting at 5:30 PM until 9 PM. Dr. Neal will do his thing with the grill and ask that you bring a dish to pass as in the past. Hope to see you there."

**Aug 20 - Miss Traci & Co. at Rascals (Jamestown, NY)** 701 N. Main (716)484-3220.

**Aug 21 - 2 Girls Alone performance at Two Friends Italian Market** 25 E 10th St, Erie PA. 8 - 10:30 PM. Performing during Celebrate Erie at Two Friends Italian Market. Email: [twogirlsalone@att.net](mailto:twogirlsalone@att.net).

## Out and about



*Kel relaxes on the deck of Aromas Coffeehouse, 2174 West Eighth Street.*

## On stage

*Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences*

**Lady Day at the Emerson Bar and Grill** Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 West 11th Street, Erie, PA. Opens July 9 and runs thru August 29. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 PM. Starring Mary Alice Brown as "Billie Holiday" Box Office (814) 456-5656.

**Vampire Lesbians of Sodom** Buffalo United Artists/Main Street Cabaret, 672 Main St, Buffalo NY. Jul 30 - Aug 21. (716) 886-9239. [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org).

**Jason Stuart** September 9-12 - Improv Comedy Club Cleveland (216) 696-7723. [www.jasonstuart.com](http://www.jasonstuart.com)

**The Best Man** at Erie Playhouse, September 16-26, Premiere weekend Sept. 10 & 11. 13 W. 10th Street, (814) 454-2852.

### Websites and email lists for appearances by area performers:

**Greg Ropp** [www.gregropp.com](http://www.gregropp.com)

**Jocelyn Porter Project** [www.playerie.com/artists/jocelyn\\_porter/](http://www.playerie.com/artists/jocelyn_porter/)

**Leah Zicari** [www.leahzicari.com](http://www.leahzicari.com)

**Two Girls Alone** <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com>

*email list:*  
[twogirlsalone@att.net](mailto:twogirlsalone@att.net).



# Calendar

**Aug 21 & 22 - Fourth Annual Book It! Crime Victim Center fundraiser** Held 9 AM-1 PM Saturday and 11 AM to 2 PM Sunday at their office, 125 W. 18th St., Erie. Used books, videos, tapes and records, games, puzzles and more. Bake sale, raffle for a "Back to School" basket and a Chinese Auction. Proceeds will benefit the thousands of men, women and children whose lives are touched by crimes each year in our community. (814)455-9414.

**Aug 21 -Youngstown Pride Center Pot Luck at Lake Milton (Youngstown OH)** (330) 654-4989

**Aug 22 - Pride at the Pier (Buffalo)** Presented by Pride Center of WNY Noon to 7 p.m. Food, music, dancing, guest DJs and more. Tickets \$15. Info and tickets: [www.pridecenterwny.org](http://www.pridecenterwny.org) Call (716) 852-PRIDE (7743) 21 and over.

**Aug 28 - Gayfest at Paramount Canada's Wonderland (Toronto)** [www.gayday.com](http://www.gayday.com)

**Aug 29 - 2004 Raise a Racquet Party (Erie PA)** "Party to support Karen Morton's 2004 LPRA tour will be held 2 to 6PM at Jerry Uht Park (SeaWolves Stadium) at 10th and French Streets. Wonderful Italian food from Two Friends, wine, beer, silent auction, music by 2 Girls Alone and also by the Dixie Doodlers Jazz, and more. \$10 advance ticket price (\$15 at the gate.)" Tickets available from Two Friends Italian Market at 10th and French. Email: [sgaia@att.net](mailto:sgaia@att.net). Details page 4.

**Sep 1- Always Our Children meets (Erie)** At Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

**Sep 3- Pride Night at Six Flags World of Adventure (Aurora OH)** 6 PM - Midnight. Sponsored by Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Greater Cleveland. Phone: (330) 995-7822.

**Sep 11 - Menspace meets at Gordon, Bill & Doug's (Edinboro PA)** 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Sep 12 - Jazz Brunch at Village Supper Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie PA 12 PM. (814) 452-0125. Email: [village@velocity.net](mailto:village@velocity.net). [www.thevillageerie.com](http://www.thevillageerie.com).

**Sep 13 - PFLAG-Erie Meets** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. 7 - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: [pflagerie@adelphia.net](mailto:pflagerie@adelphia.net).

## Bars

### Trance Dance Club to open in Erie

Erie's newest dance club—Trance—is expected to open in mid-August.

Owner Lee Edmondson and his partner/lover, Tim Omniewski, have known each other since 1975. They have been looking to open a club for the past eight years. After the couple sold their lakefront property ("The Pines") and Lee sold his business in south Florida, the timing was finally right.

They purchased the Case Management building, located at 1607 Raspberry Street, and are renovating the property. "We will have a state of the art sound system and light show in the main bar," says Lee. "And there will be a quiet Martini bar in the rear of the complex. Also, as a get-away, there will be a patio bar."

Lee is originally from Erie but has been a hairdresser, in south Florida, for the last 20 years. He prides himself on his volunteer work in the West Palm Beach gay community. He hosted the "Carnival for Life" and produced variety shows featuring the Palm Beach ballet center, that benefited missing children, MDA, Leukemia Society, and the Stop AIDS Project. He also had his own gossip column in the "Friendly Voice", and "Hot Spots" magazine, which reached Key West to Orlando. He is anxious for "Trance" to become a focal point in Erie's gay community.

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# PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

## National Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and PFLAG:

The national Parents Teachers Association (PTA) held its convention in Anaheim, California, this past weekend. Over the past couple of months, the PTA and PFLAG have gone 'round and 'round, in an exchange over whether PFLAG could present a workshop on anti-gay bullying. According to a letter from the PTA's deputy executive director in May, the workshop was rejected, "based on PFLAG's members' conversations concerning lifestyle choices".

Eventually, after a lengthy exchange, and the intervention of the National PTA CEO, Warlene Gary, PFLAG's workshop was permitted to be presented at the convention.

We are hoping that supporters of the GLBT community will email Warlene Gary at [info@pta.org](mailto:info@pta.org), and THANK her for permitting PFLAG to present the workshop. It is important that the PTA organization realizes that there are a lot of people who appreciate the extent to which GLBT students are harassed in school. It would be especially helpful if you had specific life experiences to relay, so that they may realize how much harassment affects a person. Speak from your own experiences as to why such a workshop is necessary. In a recent national poll by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 84% of GLBT students said they had been verbally harassed in school and 39% reported having been physically harassed. A survey that the GSA at McDowell H.S. conducted this year showed that GLBT students are harassed.

We expect the PTA organization to get complaints from the right-wing groups because they permitted the PFLAG workshop to be presented, and it is important that we show support for Warlene Gary for allowing it to happen.

**EGN DEADLINE  
is the 15th of the month**

## PFLAG Membership and the EGN:

We sent out letters to PFLAG supporters, encouraging them to join PFLAG and subscribe to the EGN at a discount of \$5. Annual membership in our PFLAG chapter is \$20 for individuals and \$25 for a household. Subscriptions to the EGN are normally \$20. You can get both for \$35 !!! (or \$40 for household). PFLAG doesn't have a newsletter of its own, so our news is found each month in the EGN. You will see that you need the EGN to keep up to date, not only on entertainment, but on political developments, so that we won't be blindsided by legislative actions in Harrisburg or Washington.

Supporting PFLAG helps defray the expenses we have advocating for equal rights for GLBT citizens, supporting the GLBT community, and educating the public about GLBT issues.

Please email us at [pflagerie@adelphia.net](mailto:pflagerie@adelphia.net), to sign up. If you already belong to PFLAG, now may be the best time to subscribe to EGN. If you subscribe to EGN, now may be the best time to join PFLAG.

## Meeting Notes

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: July 12. 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](mailto:pflagerie@adelphia.net), or write to: P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.



Check Out Our Website at: [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
for our list of locations

# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Gay Marriage Fight Targets Maryland

The American Civil Liberties Union recently filed suit against the Maryland county clerk's offices in Baltimore and four other Maryland counties, claiming the clerks are in clear violation of the state Constitution's guarantees of equality by denying gay couples the right to marry.

There are nine gay and lesbian couples and one man who recently lost his partner mentioned in the suit who would like the right to marry. The couples sought marriage licenses in June.

"When you hear the stories of the people involved in this lawsuit, it's obvious that lesbian and gay people in Maryland suffer real harms when their relationships aren't recognized," said Ken Choe, the staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

Maryland is one of 11 states that has not enacted a "defense of marriage" law, and Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich Jr. has called the suit part of the ACLU's "far left agenda." He said he would support any effort in Maryland to outlaw marriage for gay couples.

## Gay Groups Applaud Edwards' Selection

A number of leading GLBT groups including the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD), are applauding Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's decision to choose North Carolina Sen. John Edwards as his vice presidential running mate.

"The selection of Senator Edwards solidifies the most pro-gay, pro-family ticket in the history of presidential politics," said NSD Executive Director Dave Noble.

The NGLTF noted that of all the potential vice presidential candidates, Edwards is one of the most supportive of GLBT causes, based on his voting records and public statements.

As a senator, Edwards co-sponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would pro-

hibit discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation; he has spoken out against the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and he opposes the Federal Marriage Amendment.

The biggest strike against the Kerry/Edwards ticket, in the eyes of many in the GLBT community, is that it does not support extending equal marriage rights to same-sex couples, a position HRC called "disappointing."

## Democratic Platform Called 'Inclusive'

When it comes to issues important to the GLBT community, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) says this year's party platform is the most inclusive in American history.

Among the issues included in the new platform are: Protections for GLBT families; Legislation barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation;

Opening the armed services to all Americans; Fighting HIV/AIDS with community-based prevention programs that President Bush has cut; Protecting GLBT Americans from hate crimes; and, Defeating the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA).

Terry McAuliffe, DNC Chairman, says the platform proves the Democratic Party and the Kerry/Edwards presidential ticket are committed to protecting GLBT Americans.

In addition, the DNC has named Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), as convention vice chair, making her the first openly gay vice chair of a national political convention.

*(continued next page)*



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# National News Briefs

## Marriage Question Added to Michigan Ballot

Michigan has become the latest state to face an anti-gay marriage ballot campaign this fall, after opponents of same-sex unions turned in 482,000 signatures to the secretary of state's office.

The Citizens for the Protection of Marriage needed to produce 317,757 valid signatures to have their proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot.

The proposed amendment, similar to proposals in over half a dozen other states, defines marriage as a heterosexual union, and also employs broad language in an attempt to extend the constitutional ban to other legal arrangements. Michigan's amendment reads: "To secure and preserve the benefits of marriage for our society and for future generations of children, the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose."

Civil rights activists contend that the "similar union" phrase would effectively make civil unions, and other partner benefits, unconstitutional.

"We are neither surprised nor discouraged by the signatures filed by our opponents," wrote Wendy Howell of the Coalition for a Fair Michigan. "We know that many of these signatures were gathered under the guise of 'protecting marriage,' and that many of the good people who signed these petitions will vote no on Nov. 2 once it becomes clear to them that this goes far beyond simply strengthening the definition of marriage already on the books, and would actually ban any legal recognition of civil unions or domestic partnership rights for unmarried couples."

Michigan joins Oregon as one of two states where citizen initiatives have brought marriage amendments to the fall ballot. Seven state legislatures in Louisiana, Missouri, Georgia, Kentucky, Utah, Mississippi and Oklahoma have voted to put similar amendments before the voters.

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# National News

## NJ Law Establishes Partnership Registry

New Jersey has joined a handful of states recognizing same-sex unions with a new domestic partnership registry. While many agree it is a positive step forward, others say the state has not gone far enough.

“The new law has taken us from third-class citizens to second-class citizens,” Steven Goldstein told the New York Times. Goldstein and his partner, Daniel Gross, who have been together 12 years, moved to Teaneck, N.J., from New York City just to become eligible to register under the new law.

The New Jersey law allows couples to file joint state income tax returns, to inherit property without paying state property tax and gives them power to make medical decisions on behalf of a partner who becomes incapacitated.

However, the law does not guarantee a surviving partner can inherit property if the deceased partner dies without a will, makes no provision for custody of children born during the domestic partnership and does not require private employers to offer domestic partner benefits.

## Cheney’s Wife Opposes FMA

Breaking with the views of her husband, Vice President Dick Cheney, Lynne Cheney says she does not agree that a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage is needed.

Mrs. Cheney, also mother of a lesbian, said the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) is not necessary and that states should decide the matter, a position her husband took during the 2000 Presidential race.

“I thought the formulation he (Dick Cheney) used in 2000 was very good; first of all to be clear that people should be free to enter into the relationships they choose,” she said on CNN’s *Late Edition*. “And secondly to recognize what’s historically been the situation that when it comes to conferring legal status on relationships, that is a matter that’s best left to the states.”

Despite his remarks in 2000, the vice president said earlier this year that he supports the FMA.

# How they voted

## How our Senators voted on the gay marriage ban

WASHINGTON, July 14— The Senate blocked the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment by a roll call of 50-48. Supporters of the amendment fell 12 votes short of the 60 they needed to advance the bill.

Here are the votes of senators from Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio:

*Voting against the Federal Marriage Amendment:*  
Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-New York)  
Sen. Charles Schumer (D-New York)

*Voting in favor of the Federal Marriage Amendment:*  
Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania)  
Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania)  
Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio)  
Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio)

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<http://gayellowpages.com>

# HIV/AIDS News

by *Patty Puline, Health Educator*

The long-standing controversy surrounding "Abstinence Versus Condoms" erupted loudly at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand this week. Both sides argue that one approach is more effective than the other at reducing HIV transmission and promoting risk reduction.

Congressman Barbara Lee insists that HIV policies of this administration are not guided by the science of HIV, but by ideology and personal agendas. The U.S. AIDS Initiative requires that one-third of prevention funding is for "abstinence only" programs.

"In an age where five million people are newly infected each year, and women and girls too often do not have the choice to abstain, an abstinence until marriage program is not only irresponsible, it's really inhumane," Lee said.

"Abstaining from sex is oftentimes not a choice, and therefore their only hope in preventing HIV infections is the use of condoms," she added.

The other side of the aisle bounced back with complaints about the lack of funding for programs

aimed at changing high-risk behavior. Which prompted me to consider our own programs here at the Erie County Department of Health.

At the Erie County Department of Health, we embrace the A-B-C-D formula. Simply put:

A-Abstinence

B-Be Monogamous

C-Use a Condom or

D-You may become infected with a Disease.

We obtain our funding through the State Department of Health and provide both abstinence-based and behavior change programs. HIV/AIDS Education & Training promotes HIV counseling and testing, education and outreach prevention to all ages, audiences and communities.

A comprehensive approach, which is inclusive of all lifestyles, is the practical approach to end this controversy.

Patty Puline, Health Educator  
Erie County Dept of Health  
(814) 451-6543  
ppuline@ecdh.org

## HIV COUNSELING & TESTING



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**606 West Second Street**

(Corner of West 2nd & Cherry Streets)

Monday 12 noon - 3:30 pm

Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

### STD TESTING

**WALK IN CLINIC**

No Appointment Necessary

**Erie County Health Department**

Monday 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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

Erie County Health Department

Erie Office, Outreach Services

(814) 451-6732

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

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

# This & That

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by Deb Spilko

If you are a fan of **Cher**, you already know she will bring her Farewell Tour to Erie on September 3 at Louis J. Tullio Arena at 7:30 PM. At this writing, word is "Good seats still available" ... Righteous Babe **Ani Di Franco** comes to Erie's Warner Theater October 2 (Tickets from Ticketmaster or 814-456-7070). Ticket info for either event: Charge tickets by phone at (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070 or visit the Erie Civic Center at 809 French Street, all Ticketmaster locations or on-line at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**Vertigo Parties** "For 21+ Gays & Lesbians" are held the first Friday of the month in Butler PA, at 143 Main Street. Next party is August 6. They offer these directions for people coming from Erie: "Take 79 South to 422 East Exit #99 toward Butler. Merge onto PA 356 S toward Lyndora. Turn sharp right onto New Castle Rd. Turn left onto N Eberhart Rd. Go through two traffic lights and The Meridian Vets Club will be on your right at the bottom of the hill." For more information, email [VertigoV@aol.com](mailto:VertigoV@aol.com) or visit <http://hometown.aol.com/vertigov/>

**Gay Christian Network** is a nice website "dedicated to enriching the spiritual lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Christians of every denomination." It includes an internet radio show, a message board, chat, and numerous articles and resources. They are at [www.gaychristian.net](http://www.gaychristian.net)

**This Way Out** "The International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine" is heard on over 125 radio stations and on the Internet from PlanetOut. The weekly half-hour show reports on GLBT news and culture. The show can be heard at [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com) (click on "News").

CEPA Gallery in Buffalo presents the "**Deviant Bodies**" exhibition ("explores the margins of contemporary gay male culture.") through August 22. The CEPA Gallery is located in Buffalo's downtown theater district, at 617 Main St, Ste. 201 Buffalo (716) 856-2717. [www.cepagallery.com](http://www.cepagallery.com)

On October 9, the **Erie Philharmonic** presents *Madmen Across the Water. The Music of Elton John* at the Warner Theatre (814)455-1375 [www.eriephil.org](http://www.eriephil.org). This spring, the Erie Civic Music Presentation presents a tribute to another gay musician with their *Tribute to Liberace* on March 20 (814)864-5681. [www.eriecivicmusic.com](http://www.eriecivicmusic.com)

# Action

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from GLBT Vote

## Why we should work for Kerry

This year's presidential election is extremely important to our community.

The GLBT community nationwide has the ability to make a huge impact, if it organizes in support of John Kerry and John Edwards. Although Kerry/Edwards oppose gay marriage, their legislative record in the US Senate is clearly pro-gay. On the other hand, George Bush has shown time and again that he is no friend of the GLBT community. Even the Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest gay Republican political organization, is withholding its support from Bush. In addition, the next President is very likely to appoint at least one or two Justices to the US Supreme Court. These are lifetime appointments that will have an impact on our society for decades to come. Who do you want to make these appointments? If you feel as we do that John Kerry and John Edwards *must* be elected in November, please volunteer your time to help us rally support and get out the vote. Interested? Browse to <http://glbtvote.eriegaynews.com>, or contact Deb Spilko at (814) 461-1325 or Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

## GLBT volunteers for Kerry

Interested in working with other GLBT people and allies to defeat Bush's right wing presidency? A number of us are talking about getting together to do campaign volunteer work *as a group*. This can be a fun way to get together with other people who care about things you care about, while you accomplish something that needs to be done.

What types of volunteer work are we talking about? Some examples:

Voter registration - Working a table at bars and special events, to make sure that everyone is registered this election day.

Work parties - Mostly this is for preparing mailings: folding, labeling, stamping.. that sort of thing.

"Lit drops"- Dropping campaign literature in doors. This is a great way to combine exercise, socializing and good work.

Other ideas are welcome!

If you are interested, please contact Deb Spilko at (814) 461-1325 or [dspilko@velocity.net](mailto:dspilko@velocity.net)

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Anyone interested in participating in this group or for more information contact:

Sue Bobosky at:

**1-800-359-AIDS** 2437

