

February 2005



# EGN

## Erie Gay News



### Erie Gay Bowling League starting

*from Chad*

I'm forming a gay bowling league. Basically I just want another option for gay people here in Erie. WHY NOT!? No one does anything Tuesday nights anyhow, and there's no reason why people can't go bowling on Tuesday night. Every week on Tuesday at Rolling Meadows' Bowling Alley from 8:00 till 11:30 I think that gay people should *take over!* :) If anyone has any questions or concerns, contact me, Chad Henderson, at [kainjock@aol.com](mailto:kainjock@aol.com). The bowling alley is located on the corner of West 32nd and Zuck Rd. and is open every Tuesday until 11:30. It's a BYOB bar, and a very laid back environment to bowl in. It's only \$2.00 a game (average about 2-3 games or so) and \$1.00 for the shoe rental, but most people spend WAY more than that at the bar, and it's less fun. :) Come one come all. :) *Every Tuesday Night! Gay Bowling!* :) Yay! :)

### GLBT Business association forms

*from Brian*

Erie Networking Group, an association of local GLBT and GLBT-friendly businesses is now forming. The next meeting will be on Wednesday February 9 at 7 PM at Trance, 1607 Raspberry St. Current proposed projects include a fundraiser for an area charitable group and a print version of the Resource Directory. We hope that this will be a great way for businesses and people to connect. For more info, contact Brian at [networking-admin@eriegaynews.com](mailto:networking-admin@eriegaynews.com) or call Mike at (814) 456-9833..

### Menspace collects food

*from Gordon and Bill*

Menspace donated 106 pounds of food to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. The group collected the food at the December 12, 2004. The December Menspace was held at Gordon and Bill's. Great going, guys!



### Erie Gay and Straight Citizens Meetup

*from Parris*

A local group to help support the agenda of the Human Rights Campaign will have its first meet-up at Panera Bread, 1935 Keystone Drive in Erie (off upper Peach Street) on Thursday, January 27 at 7 PM. Interested people are invited to "Join us for coffee and chat." Browse to <http://hrc.meetup.com/101/events/> or call Parris at (814) 566-4831 or email [phobbs101@aol.com](mailto:phobbs101@aol.com).

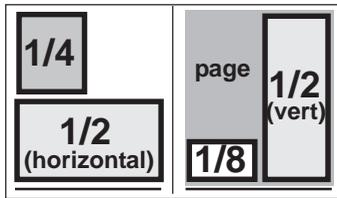
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## Happy Valentine's Day to our readers!



### EGN Ad Rates



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Half (vert)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	7" high X 2-7/8" wide
Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)  
Deadline for ads is the 15th



**Erie Gay News**  
1115 West 7th St.  
Erie PA 16502-1105  
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**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Ad Design: MAL**  
**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 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.

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 Dave Amy, Brian Bohrer, James von Loewe, Lynne Rhodes, and Tim for folding; Dave Amy, Brian Bohrer, Paula King, James von Loewe, Lynne Rhodes and Jerry McCumber for distribution; and Bob & Julie for proofreading. MAL for ad layout & etc. Thanks! If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) for date/time.

*Trance Is Honored To Host*  
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## What Do You Say?

*This month, we asked our readers:*

### What is the best and/or worst thing about Valentine's Day?

Worst thing about valentines day.....hmmm....BEING SINGLE! All the "chosen" ones are getting little things or sometimes big or decent size things. While the others including me..are just trying to get thru the winter. It's a nice holiday between Christmas and spring to help your spirits. But not if you don't have someone special..... **[lonely cowboy!]**

Best: I can pet Smoke without feeling guilty in the least. Yay for cats. Worst: Experiencing ads that imply love is strictly a function of your expenditures on the person. **[Chris Strayer]**

The best thing is that I have someone that I love very much to spend it with. We should spend every day as if it were Valentine's Day and never take the people in our lives for granted. Life is far too fleeting & love too precious. **[Jocelyn Porter Project]**

The worst thing about V. Day is how it's been commercialized (like Christmas). The best thing about V. Day is the reminder to us all of how important love is — everyday. So take the opportunity, and let everyone you love know it... show it, say it, share it.. People are the most precious parts of our lives. The moment you take to make someone's day better might just be a saving grace. Don't forget to love yourself, too - a little self-gift (chocolate, candy, flowers, a long hot bath...) is important & healthy, too!! Peace & LOVE to all **[Lynne S.]**

The BEST thing about Valentine's Day is realizing that I have someone who loves me every day. Even though my family has basically turned away, I have him to love and be loved by. **[Marshall]**

The best thing about Valentines Day is hoping that in years to come, I will be sharing years of happiness with someone on Valentines Day and every other day. The worst thing is that I am single now and don't have a special Valentine. :( **[Eric]**

The best thing is having a boyfriend on Valentines day, the worst thing is being alone. **[Mark S.]**

The worst thing about Valentine's Day is being single. I have lots of experience in that area! **[Bob]**

Valentines Day to me is a special day, whether I am out to dinner with my wife Laurie or sitting at home with her watching TV. Because, you see, *all* my days with my wife are very special days. I love you honey. **[Janice]**

No one particular Valentines Day stands out as being so horrible but in the hospitality business working every holiday does put a damper on being with loved ones since I am usually at the hotel or in the restaurant. The Best Valentines Day I am expecting is to be this upcoming one since we'll also be celebrating our first anniversary..... and many more to come. **[Z]**

I can remember the worst valentine's day when I look back but now I know it was the very best thing that could have ever happened to me. Because I moved on and have found my partner for life and have 2 wonderful families full of love and support. I had an ex break up with me on Valentine's day. At the time I was shocked but now am very relieved that I didn't waste anymore time on a relationship that was never going to go anywhere **[Anonymous]**

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**MONDAY**  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**THURSDAY**  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

HIV & STD CLINIC 451-6700

Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department

Erie Office Outreach Services 814.451.6732	Corry Office 814.663.3891
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Hispanic American Council 814.455.0212
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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).

# Calendar

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

**Jan 27 - Erie Gay and Straight Citizens for Equality meets** Panera Bread, 1935 Keystone Drive, Erie PA 7 PM. First meeting of local group to help support Human Rights Campaign agenda/goals/political stuff. Join us for coffee and chat. Email: [phobbs101@aol.com](mailto:phobbs101@aol.com). Browse to <http://hrc.meetup.com/101/events/>.

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

**Feb 4 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA)** Vertigo is BYOB [vertigov@aol.com](mailto:vertigov@aol.com). [www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov](http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov).

**Feb 5 - Scott "VIP" Lorenzo's 25th Birthday at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. Come get your MAC on with Him! Phone: (814) 456-2037. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 5 - Martika, Tiffany & Sabrina at Rascals (Jamestown NY)** Country-themed show. 701 N. Main Street. (716)484-3220.

**Feb 5 - Asians and Friends Cleveland Chinese New Year Celebration** "AFC's 10th annual celebration of the Chinese new year will take place at a lavish new Chinatown restaurant with a multi-course banquet and

glittering show! Come mix with our sister groups from Pittsburgh, Columbus and beyond!" [afccleveland@aol.com](mailto:afccleveland@aol.com), (440) 552-2120, <http://members.aol.com/afccleveland>.

**Feb 11 - Red Ribbon Evening at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. Fundraiser for the SHOUT Outreach Program. (HIV & AIDS Educators in Our Community.) Phone (814) 456-2037. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com) Browse to [www.trancedanceclub.com](http://www.trancedanceclub.com).

**Feb 12 - 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market** 10th and French Streets, Erie. 7:30 to 9:30 PM. For more information, email [twogirlsalone@att.net](mailto:twogirlsalone@att.net).

**Feb 12 - Menspace Potluck Dinner - 'Roaring Red' (Jeff & Gary's)** 7:30 PM. 'Okay you Drugstore Cowboys and Molls, it's time to roll down your stockings and rouge your knees to the sights and sounds of the Roaring '20s. That's right, it's Flapper Girls, Bathtub Gin, lots of Hooch, and good times at the Speakeasy of Jeff and Gary's. Grab a dish along with something to eat or drink and swing on over to 1146 Brown Ave in Erie for the best of times. Prohibition may be long gone but the good music and swill of the era still bring out fun for all. Not sure what to wear for the occasion? Check out Chicago, Ragtime, the Great Gatsby and other movies for ideas. Not only is the 1920s a decadent and fun decade, it was a time of letting loose. *And* don't forget that Valentine's Day is just around the corner, so of course Red is the primary color choice. Any questions, feel free to contact Gary at [gar\\_bear73@hotmail.com](mailto:gar_bear73@hotmail.com) - Lookin' forward to Whoopee!' Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.



*Jocelyn Porter Project performs at Forward Hall on February 25.*

*Photo by J. N. Packard.*



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# Calendar

**Feb 12 - Red Hot Dance Party! at Zone Dance Club** 1711 State St, Erie PA. "We are going to heat things up! Cupid is lighting the flames of passion at the Zone! Wear *red* or come in costume!... dress as a Horny Devil - Leather Cupid - Flashing Fireman-Drag Queen of Hearts - Diva Dominatrix... or wear Sexy Lingerie or Valentines Boxers!!... just Wear *red*!!! Don't be blue!- get into the Zone for a Sexy night of *fun!*" Phone: (814) 459-1711.

**Feb 14 - PFLAG-Erie/Crawford meets** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com.

**Feb 15 - Deadline for March 2005 edition of Erie Gay News** Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.eriegaynews.com>.

**Feb 19 - 10% Network Card Nite at Mike's (Ellington, NY)** Contact Don Johnson at [jtown10-admin@eriegaynews.com](mailto:jtown10-admin@eriegaynews.com).

**Feb 21 - Ellis at Eclectic Etceteras Coffeehouse** February 21 at 118 Erie Street, Edinboro, PA 7 PM, \$5 suggested. 814) 734-2909 <http://ellis-music.com/> or [www.eclecticketeteras.com/](http://www.eclecticketeteras.com/)

**Feb 25 - Concert: Jocelyn Porter Project and others at Forward Hall** 2502 Peach St, Erie. Jocelyn Porter Project, Canadian Friday, Ron Szabo & TBA Phone: (814) 455-8231. Browse to <http://www.forwardhall.com> or check <http://www.jocelynporterproject.com/>

**Feb 25 - 27 - North Coast Leather Weekend & Mr. Leather Cleveland Contest (Cleveland OH)** Presented by Laws Leather & N.A.I.L. (New Age In Leather) . Featuring Friday Night Registration Party (Meet The Contestants & Judges), Friday Night Pub Crawl, Saturday Brunch, Saturday Dinner, Saturday Contest, Saturday Night Dungeon Party, Sunday Brunch, North Coast Leather Weekend Run Pin, Shuttle Service For Out-Of-Town Guests, Complete Run Packages. (216) 961-0544. Details and price information [www.mrclevelandleather.com/](http://www.mrclevelandleather.com/).

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

**Mar 4 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA)** Vertigo is BYOB [vertigov@aol.com](mailto:vertigov@aol.com). [www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov](http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov).

**Mar 12 - Menspace meets (Peter and Tim's)** 7:30 PM. In honor of Neal, who usually hosted this month. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833.

*(continued on next page)*

## MOVIE EXCHANGE

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**Mar 14 - PFLAG-Erie-Crawford meets** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: [pflagerie@eriegaynews.com](mailto:pflagerie@eriegaynews.com).

**Mar 15 - Deadline for April 2005 edition of Erie Gay News**

**Mar 19 - Joker nite at Frank's (Warren PA)** Contact Don Johnson at [jtown10-admin@eriegaynews.com](mailto:jtown10-admin@eriegaynews.com).



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<http://gayellowpages.com>

## Workshops

### “It’s Not About the Equipment, Babe!”

Bethany Robson; a local coach and psychotherapist specializing in relationships and LGBTI issues, and LauraLynn Jansen; a nationally known speaker, coach and trainer on health issues impacting the LGBTI community have joined forces to bring together a workshop that focuses on empowering and improving lesbians and their relationships. This exciting workshop, to be held on Sunday February 20 at the Judson Center in Jamestown, will provide interactive exercises and holistic approaches to life and love that will teach you how to live the life you want and enhance your intimate relationships. Whether you are in a relationship now or would like to be.... whether you have moved in together after the first date or have never lived with anyone, even the woman you've been with for many years... whether you enjoy the advantages of similar clothes and hair style or are completely different... whether you drive a pickup or a small green car... Join us for an afternoon of fun!

Both Bethany and LauraLynn are committed to working within the LGBTI community to inspire and lead people in skills and techniques that will allow for healthier lesbian relationships and in turn, a healthier world. The workshop will specifically teach communication skills, interactive approaches to learning, new perspectives on integrating body, mind, and spirit awareness for a healthier you, and ways to bring playful interactions into all of your relationships. They want you to learn new ways to be a sexier, sassier you, and to make the most of the time and energy you spend in relationship with others. Their mission is to see everyone who attends this workshop walk away with a new appreciation for how you can lead a more satisfying life and also be inspired to lead others and strengthen the lesbian community. Underlying all of this is the belief that a healthier, happier lesbian community will be reflected in a healthier, happier world.

The workshop will run from 1:00-5:00 PM on Sunday February 20. The cost is a sliding scale of \$50.00 to \$100.00. No one will be turned away for lack of cash. The Judson Center is located at 516 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Jamestown NY. For reservations and more information, call Beth at (716) 483-5830.

# On stage

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

**Visiting Mr. Green**, January 14 to February 6 at Clague Playhouse 1371 Clague Rd, Westlake (Cleveland), 440-331-0403, [www.clagueplayhouse.org](http://www.clagueplayhouse.org) "To their mutual resentment New York yuppie Ross is sentenced to six months of weekly community service to cantankerous, yet lovable, reclusive widower Mr. Green, whom Ross nearly ran over. The story expands from comedy to heartwarming drama as the two men humorously engage in verbal warfare revealing secrets and their true characters, and ultimately coming to mutual caring and friendship."

**Making Gay History** at Buffalo United Artists/Main Street Cabaret, 672 Main St, Buffalo NY) By Eric Marcus, adapted for the stage by Matthew Crehan Higgins. January 21 - February 12, 2005. "In 1950, Americans were almost unanimous in their discomfort with the country's homosexual citizens. While most gay and lesbian people were hiding, small groups of courageous individuals began to take a stand, and set to motion a civil rights movement that would forward the goals and lives of their people. From clandestine meetings in basements, bar room raids, and AIDS through protests, legislative gains, and the construction of a major center in Washington, DC more than fifty ordinary people who achieved extraordinary things told their stories to bestselling author Eric Marcus. Get in touch with your past with this world premiere event." Phone: (716) 886-9239 Email: [info@buffalobua.org](mailto:info@buffalobua.org) or browse to [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org).

**Andrew Lloyd Webber's Aspects of Love** Proudly Presents Productions (Pittsburgh's GLBT non profit community theater) will perform this romantic show, which runs February 10 to 20. Gemini Theater, 7501

Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh (located inside The Factory in Point Breeze). Tickets are \$12 with advance reservations and \$15 at the door. Call (412) 922-0863 for reservations.

**Ellis at Eclectic Etceteras Coffeeshouse** February 21 at 118 Erie Street, Edinboro, PA 7 PM, \$5 suggested. 814) 734-2909 <http://ellis-music.com> or [www.eclecticetceteras.com/](http://www.eclecticetceteras.com/)

**Rent** at University of Buffalo Center for Performing Arts, Feb. 22 and 23. (716) 645-ARTS [www.ubcfa.org](http://www.ubcfa.org)  
**The Laramie Project** Allegheny College (Playshop Theatre) in Meadville. February 24, 25, 26 at 8 PM and February 27 at 2:30 PM (814) 332-3414. Chronicles the life of the town of Laramie, Wyoming in the year after a young gay man named Matthew Shepard was murdered there.

**LP Performs** March 3 at Club Cafe 56 South 12th St., Pittsburgh, PA Box office Line: (412)431-4950 [www.clubcafelive.com](http://www.clubcafelive.com)

**Tribute to Liberace** March 20 at Warner Theatre, Erie PA "An Erie Civic Music Presentation. Martin Preston performs a unique program that includes spectacular costume changes. The great opera singer and stage star William Garron accompanies Preston." Tickets (814) 864-5681 Web: [www.eriecivicmusic.com](http://www.eriecivicmusic.com)

## Websites and email lists for area performers:

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

**Jocelyn Porter Project**  
[www.jocelynporterproject.com](http://www.jocelynporterproject.com)

**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).

"Anyone who thinks that love needs to be cured has not experienced enough of it in their own lives."

—**Joan Garry**, Executive Director of GLAAD, the Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation



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# Michael Dithers

---

by Michael Mahler

Hope that everyone had a happy New Year. Did everyone read the very surreal news story that the US Pentagon was considering coming up with some form of nonlethal chemical weapon based on aphrodisiacs that would make enemy soldiers supposedly turn gay? Nope, there is nothing to suggest that there is any rational scientific basis for any of this. I am pretty sure that no substance has ever been found to be an aphrodisiac, or to change sexual orientation.. But hey, millions of tax dollars were spent by our government on something that sounds like it came out of a gay porn flick. Did anyone also think that if this miraculous substance was found that turned guys into raging hunks of homo love that it would probably also change their perceptions about same sex activity. Picture it: are we really expecting that guys will simultaneously boffing each other AND getting grossed out at the same time? But I guess when you apparently are basing military/tactical research on the films of Al Parker or Donnie Russo, anything can happen. By the way, when I went to look up this story just now on CNN, the headline on the front page dealing with the war on terror was Bush: Better Human Intelligence Needed with a photo of the Chimp in Chief. You just can't write them any better than that.

I had a very nice, unexpected email recently. A representative from the Erie SeaWolves emailed me that he had seen the article online about last summer's Pride Picnic and wondered if we would be interested in having it at SeaWolves Stadium downtown this year. I replied that we have already booked the Rotary Pavilion for June 25, and thanked him. He sent a brochure in the mail. Obviously, he has clued in to the fact that gay folk's money spends like everyone else's.

One of the reasons that I think this happened is because we have folks who come to the Pride Picnic, have a great time, and are pretty much normal everyday folks. Sometimes, the most revolutionary act is just to be oneself. How we act frequently affects how others perceive us.

Lots of exciting projects! I have been working on a local GLBT history section on the EGN web site, and hope to expand that, and I am also very excited about the political, bowling and business association groups mentioned on the front page of this issue.

# Local News

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## Village Closes

The Village Dance Club, at 133 West 18th Street in Erie, closed on Sunday Jan 2, 2005.

The owners reported that it wasn't financially feasible to keep the establishment open.

The owners thank the community for their support.

## Ray Carinci pleads guilty

ERIE (December 30)—Ray Carinci, also known as Miss Ginger, pleaded guilty to one charge of involuntary manslaughter in the death of his companion, Daryl Williams. In exchange for the plea, prosecutors withdrew a charge of reckless endangerment. Sentencing is set for Feb. 2. Carinci faces up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for the misdemeanor offense, President Judge William R. Cunningham told him.

Williams, 48, had multiple sclerosis and had become completely dependent on Carinci, unable to move, eat, drink, or relieve himself without assistance in their home at 917 Chestnut. Carinci told investigators that in the days leading up to Williams' death, Carinci took a three-day trip to Las Vegas, leaving Williams alone to fend for himself. Williams died on July 30 of pneumonia, a urinary-tract infection, bedsores and malnourishment, Erie County Coroner Lyell Cook found. Police and paramedics expressed shock at the conditions of filth and neglect in which they found Williams.

Carinci's lawyer, Charbel Latouf, said Carinci is remorseful and is getting treatment for the disorder that allowed the situation to deteriorate so badly. Assistant District Attorney Patricia Kennedy said he may be remorseful but the situation had deteriorated over a period of time.

*Information for this item adapted from report in Erie Times-News. Link to full Times News article in History section on EGN web site.*

**Erie Gay News print edition  
can be viewed online at  
[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)**

# PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

Our recent membership drive yielded five new members and several renewals for our local Chapter. Our Leadership and Officers will remain the same through 2005. Membership cards were mailed out in the order that they were received into the Chapter. We are presently in the early stages, networking, and planning some fund raisers for this year to help our Chapter with the help of volunteers and local gay businesses. Please send any ideas or volunteer names to either of our addresses. PFLAG would like to thank all of those who helped in 2004 and continue into 2005.

We will hold our regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 14, even though it's Valentine's Day. A second reminder that we are operating on two fronts from now through April, 2005, (Erie and Florida), PFLAG-Erie has a new (temporary) email address. You should discontinue using the adelphia.net email address now, and use the following address, un-

til further notice: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Our snail mail address remains the same.

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: Monday, February 14th. Feel free to bring a refreshment. The meeting will be at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy. (Rte. 90), Erie, from 7 to 9 PM. (Take exit 27 off of Rte. 90, and go north about a half mile.) For support, call Maureen (814-898-8341), email us at pflagerie@eriegaynews.com, or write to: P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

“Love is the big booming beat which covers up the noise of hate.”

— comedian and activist, *Margaret Cho*



Meet Jeff Grego, a case manager in the Erie Office, he's been with the Alliance for 4 years and has worked in the HIV field for the past 11 years. He's just one of the dedicated people you'll find at the Alliance waiting to help you!

## The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural Aids Alliance

“We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania.” With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered, please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information.

### **For more information, contact:**

Northwest PA Rural Aids Alliance  
1001 State St. Suite 703  
Renaissance Centre  
Erie, PA 16501

**814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437**

Clarion Office:  
15870 Route 322 Suite 2  
Clarion, PA 16214  
**814-764-6066 or  
1-800-359-2437**

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Ofrecemos exámenes médicos, además de servicios médicos, educativos, financieros y de apoyo para los que están infectados de VIH o de SIDA dentro del noroeste de Pensilvania. Hay clínicas en Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville y Farrell con personal especializado en el tratamiento de VIH.

**Hágase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.**

# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Supreme Court Won't Rule on Gay Adoption Ban

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal of the Florida law banning gay people from adopting children. This action allows the law to stand and the ban to continue.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which brought the case to the high court on behalf of four gay men, had hoped the court would use the case to expand on its 2003 ruling which struck down state anti-sodomy laws.

In refusing to hear the appeal, the Supreme Court gave no reason for its denial. The denial itself is not necessarily an endorsement of a lower court ruling. In this case, the lower courts had ruled in favor of the Florida law.

The four men who brought the suit are all seeking to adopt children they have long cared for as foster parents. The Florida law has been on the books since 1977.

## FDA Puts New HIV Drug on Fast Track

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given fast-track status to a new once-daily oral drug for HIV developed by Panacos Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Fast-track status is designed to expedite development and approval of new drugs that may have the potential to improve treatment for serious or life-threatening diseases.

Panacos has demonstrated that the drug, known as PA-457, was well tolerated by uninfected volunteers

and is now running a trial to see what effect it has on HIV-infected patients who aren't on other antiretroviral therapy.

## Parents Want "Gay" Kids Out of School

The children of a gay California couple are not welcome in a Catholic school, at least by some parents and parishioners. The Roman Catholic diocese in Orange County is being accused of violating church doctrine by allowing the gay couple to enroll their children in a church school.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the group has demanded that St. John the Baptist School in Costa Mesa accept only families that pledge to abide by Catholic teachings. The Catholic Church opposes gay relationships and adoption by same-sex couples.

"The teachings of the church seem to have been abandoned," one parent told the *Times*. "We send our children to a Catholic school because we expect and demand that the teachings of our church will be adhered to."

School officials however, have rejected the parents' demand. In addition, the school issued a new policy stating that a family's background "does not constitute an absolute obstacle to enrollment in the school."

The Rev. Gerald M. Horan, superintendent of diocese schools, pointed out that if Catholic beliefs were strictly adhered to, then children of divorced parents, parents who use birth control or parents married outside the church would also have to be banned.

"This is the quagmire that the parents' position represents," he said. "It's a slippery slope to go down."

## Atlanta Golf Club Sparks Gay Controversy

Gay rights activists are "teed off" over an Atlanta country club's refusal to grant spousal benefits to its gay members, in violation of Atlanta city ordinances.

Atlanta city law states that businesses and other groups dealing with the public may not discriminate against gays or their partners. As a result, city officials have been threatening Druid Hills Golf Club, a pri-

**Bethany J. Robson, CSW-R**

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# National News

vate club with 1,100 members, with fines and criminal prosecution if it does not comply with the law.

In response to the city's action, attorneys for Druid Hills have filed a law suit against Atlanta, claiming that the city ordinance violates Georgia's new gay marriage amendment, which states that the benefits of marriage may only be extended to heterosexual couples.

The complaint against Druid Hills was brought by two gay members of the club after their partners were not given the same club privileges as the spouses of straight members.

## A Victory in Montana

Some positive news has come out of the State of Montana. The state's Supreme Court has ruled that the University of Montana health plan must be open to same-sex domestic partners.

In a 4-3 decision, the court said that the university's policy of excluding gay and lesbian employees from equal employment benefits violates the equal protection guarantees in the state constitution.

Justice James C. Nelson, in a concurring opinion, wrote: "The equal protection clause states that 'no person' shall be denied the equal protection of laws. The language is clear and unambiguous. 'No person' means simply that — there is no language in this clause excepting out of this guarantee gays and lesbians. At least our society has not come to the position that homosexuals are not even to be considered as persons."

The American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the suit in 2002 on behalf of two lesbian couples and a statewide LGBT rights group, called the court's ruling a "modest step forward" for the LGBT community.

## Helpful numbers

**Gay and Lesbian National Hotline** 1-888-843-GLNH [www.glnh.org/index\\_.html](http://www.glnh.org/index_.html)  
**Covenant House Ninline (youth)**  
1-800-999-9999  
**Trevor Helpline for Suicidal Gay Youth**  
1-800-850 8078

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with your community!

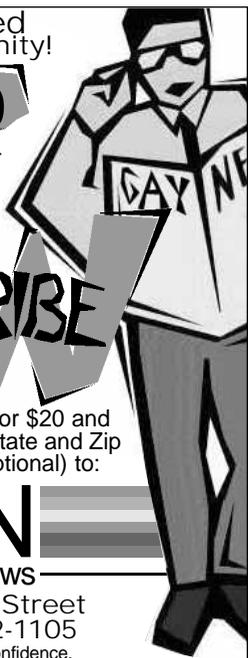
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**fellowship**  
**Monthly social group for gay/bi men.**  
**Usually meets second Saturday of the month.**

Sign up for email list at:  
<http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>

**Next meeting is  
February 12**

**For more details.  
E-mail Michael Mahler  
at [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)  
and/or call 814-456-9833**

# The History of the Condom

Patty Puline,  
Erie County Health Department  
Contributing Editor

## 1000 BC

Ancient Egypt discovers linen as a protection against disease and fashions the first linen sheath, later to be known to us as THE CONDOM.

## 100 - 200 AD

Scenes in cave paintings found in Europe illustrate the use of some early form of THE CONDOM.

## 1500 AD

The great scourge of syphilis, and its epidemic proportions in Europe forced people to look at infection in a new way. Prevention was born when it was proven that condoms actually prevented infection, and later, pregnancy. Improvements were made at the turn of the century, one being a complete chemical soaking of the linen sheath and then dried before use. Hello, can anyone say spermicidal?

## 1700 AD

The actual word "THE CONDOM" has disputed historical origins. Some point to an obscure poem published in 1706, others suggest a doctor had been named "CONDUM". Uses of the condom traveled far and wide during the reign of King Charles, and include one famous "CASANOVA" who advocated its use as a form of birth control and prevention of infection. Condoms changed their "cover" during this era, when animal intestines began to be the choice for manufacturing "THE CONDOM." Still pricy, most people were not using these in the mainstream, more educated persons chose this to prevent infection, however it was clear that the message missed was this "DO NOT REUSE." Since condoms were often reused, infection rates still soared, and the condom was blamed and labeled by many to be "ineffective."

## 1800 AD

THE CONDOM enters a new era of social and economic development. Condom manufacturers in the United States and Europe discovered the vulcanized rubber process as a means to an end (metaphorically

speaking). Mass production of condoms could be done quickly and inexpensively.

## ADVERTISING

The New York Times published the first ad for condoms in 1861, touting the strength and reliability of "Dr. Power's French Preventatives." However, as with anything new, several people started getting very nervous about advertising for male penises to be shrouded in elastic or rubber. Therefore, the Comstock Law was passed in 1873, which made it illegal to publish any ads for birth control, and could actually seize condoms if sold through the postal service.

## 1900 AD

Early in this century, condoms were still being produced by the hand-dipping method into rubber cement. However, due to lack of quality control, they tended to dry out, and were rendered useless if not used before time constraints. One man from Ohio, Frederick Killian, created a new material for the condom — **latex**. In addition, oh, what a time we had! Discovery early on indicated that latex condoms had a longer shelf life, were easier to mass produce, was less obtrusive to use, and became more acceptable to the general public. Mid-century, lubrication for the condoms was introduced, and not until the advent of more common forms of contraception came into modern usage, was the condom pushed aside. Condom usage increased during the AIDS crisis, and became readily available in bars, supermarkets, gas stations and the like. Female condoms were introduced during the 1990's, but have not proven to be as acceptable nor as user friendly as the male condom. We recently saw the birth of Polyurethane condoms, vinyl condoms, colored condoms, flavored condoms, and yes, even gel condoms. Still questions abound about the effectiveness of condoms, and their success or failure rate. Check out any condom website, and in doing so, you will see varying data on the effectiveness of condoms. The health department teaches that when used correctly and consistently every time, condoms have a near 97% success rate. Remember high school days? That was always an A+ grade! Failure is often due to user

## HIV/AIDS

mistakes, although lubrication is important, please remember:

1. Do not use oil, or anything oil based on the condom or the penis or vaginal area
2. Water based lubricants will not wear down the effectiveness of the condom
3. Oil based lubricants will erode the condom, and render it ineffective in many instances.
4. Oil based lubricants include:
  - a) Vaseline
  - b) Body Butter
  - c) Oil
  - d) Lipstick, chap stick, lip gloss
5. Use a new condom for each act of intercourse
6. Put the condom on before oral, anal or vaginal sex
7. Remove immediately following ejaculation, hold firmly, and toss away.

Valentine's Day is also National Condom Day; so remember to wrap it up! Free condom packets will be available at all three GLBTQ bars on February 14<sup>th</sup>, courtesy of the Erie County Department of Health, HIV/AIDS Division. For further information, please call Patty Puline, 451-6543 or Steve Simmelkjaer, 451-7875.

"Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within."  
— James Baldwin

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## This & That

by Deb Spilko

MTV's **Logo** has decided to push back the starting date their 24/7 all-gay programming channel. The original start date was February 17 of this year, and has been moved up to June 30. Brian Graden, president of Logo, said this was to ensure that Logo would be a "complete service" channel from the beginning. "Until I got deeper into the planning for Logo, I hadn't realized the degree of pent-up demand there is for this channel," Graden told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "I want it to come out with a complete and diverse (program) slate, so that every gay and lesbian person can look at it and say, 'Oh, there I am.'" Graden also hopes that the additional time will allow the channel to secure additional markets, reaching at least 10 million cable households. Browse to [www.logo-tv.com](http://www.logo-tv.com)

If you're interested in donating to tsunami relief, you might want to take a look at **Rainbow World Fund**. RWF is a LGBT humanitarian relief agency. Started by Jeffrey Cotter in 2000, the organization has raised funds for global HIV/AIDS, safe drinking water, landmine removal, and hunger and disaster relief. Some might ask why a LGBT relief agency doesn't give to LGBT causes? "Suffering is universal, and the LGBT community knows more than a little bit about that," Cotter told Gay.com. "When we took the aid trip to Guatemala earlier this year, it was clear that we (the LGBT community) had a shared history of oppression with the Mayan population there. There was a systematic genocide there, and the government invalidated their marriage relationships, among other atrocities." He also sees it working the other way as well. "We're about changing attitudes toward gays and lesbians," he said. "Many of the places we visit and help have very little LGBT presence. Everyone we've worked with has been surprised by our commitment, and very open and accepting to our presence... "We have tended to define ourselves too narrowly in the LGBT community. The very act of giving helps reinforce the idea that we're not just about sex or partying, or Madonna. We are a community that cares about human suffering anywhere, and does something about it." Because administrative costs are paid for by a grant, RWF is able to give 100% of its donations to their relief efforts. Relief to tsunami victims is distributed through their international partner, CARE. Donations are 100% tax-deductible. Visit [www.rainbowfund.org](http://www.rainbowfund.org)

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