

July 2005



EGN



Erie Gay News

OUT TV coming to Pride Erie Picnic!

Nifty news! We were contacted by Out TV, a GLBT cable channel from Canada. They produce a series called the *Chris and John Show*, which consists of 5 minute comedy/reality TV segments. They will be coming to film a segment at the Pride Erie Picnic! Of course, it is perfectly okay NOT to be filmed or photographed, if that is where you are at. To see more, browse to <http://www.outtv.ca/> or <http://www.outtv.ca/prog/chrisandjohn.asp>.

Things are progressing well for the 2005 Erie Pride Picnic. It will be held Saturday, June 25 from 1 to 6 PM at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle. Burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks are provided, and we ask that everyone bring a dish to pass. You can read more about it at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>.

We are very proud that the Pride Picnic has been growing since it first started 13 years ago. It is a fun and friendly event that everyone is welcome to enjoy.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com

—by Mike Mahler

Rascals destroyed by fire

On June 11, a fire completely destroyed Rascals, a gay bar located in Jamestown, NY. The fire reportedly began around 2:45 AM. The cause has not yet been determined.

Crime Victim Center Book It! Sale

The Crime Victim Center will be accepting used books, tapes, CDs, videos, games and puzzles during the month of June for their Fifth Annual *Book It!* - a fundraising event to benefit the thousands of men, women and children who are victimized each year in our community. *Book It!* will be held August 13 at the Center, 125 West 18 Street, in the same plaza as the zone. The Zone. For more information, call (814) 455-9414.

—from the Crime Victim Center



Wanda, Beverly, Camacho, Renee, Flip, and Sonny from Hispanic Council, at last year's Pride Picnic.

Photo: Deb Spilko

County Council vetoes Schenker on Human Relations Commission

On Thursday, June 2, Erie County Council voted 6-0 to override a previous veto by County Executive Rick Schenker to create a Human Relations Commission Bureau. Only five votes were needed to overturn the veto. Councilmember David Mitchell was the only member not in attendance. About a dozen supporters of the HRC attended the meeting.

In 2002, Council voted to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the ordinance, and Schenker signed the ordinance. However, he effectively disbanded the agency soon after, and the executive director at that time, Willie Dampier, took another job.

Since the disbanding, local claims have been referred to state and federal authorities, which are not located in Erie County. Using these agencies, claims typically take two years to resolve. Cases that were handled locally by the HRC typically took 90 days to

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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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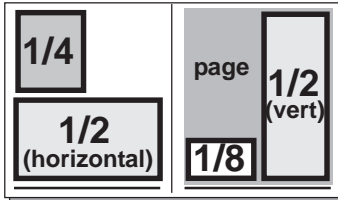
Thank You:

To Wes Eades, Allen Lozelle and James von Loewe for folding; Wes Eades, Lee Edmondson, James von Loewe, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King & Dave S for distribution; and Bob and 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 for date/time.



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter
 Support, Education, Advocacy
 for GLBT People, their families and friends
(814) 898-8341
 pflagerie@eriegaynews.com
 PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com
 Transgender Coordinator

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(continued from cover)

resolve. State and federal laws do not currently cover sexual orientation and gender identity, so persons experiencing those discrimination categories in Erie County were not able to have their claims investigated.

This vote means that the HRC will be under the control of County Council, rather than the County Executive. It is hoped that this is the final battle between Erie County Council and the out-going County Executive, and that the HRC will be able to hire staff and lease office space downtown.

For more details visit the Erie Gay News website at www.eriegaynews.com.

—by Mike Mahler

Business Expo at Trance postponed until fall

The Erie Networking Group is postponing the Business Expo, previously scheduled at Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA for Saturday, July 9. We are expecting that this will be moved to this fall. For more info, please contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

—From Erie Networking Group

Fall Gay Pride 2005

Plans are moving along for Gay Pride 2005! Date: We are tentatively planning for the first or second Saturday in October 2005. Other plans are still pretty fluid. So, if you want to see something in the weekend, please email me at eriegaypride@yahoo.com or call me at 814.602.0252. Look for some flyers at the Picnic and announcements in the August and September EGN. Until then, yours in Pride, Dan Burdick, Fall Gay Pride 2005 Coordinator

—from Dan Burdick



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This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant under the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

Calendar

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

Jun 25 - 13th Annual Pride Erie Picnic Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle Erie, PA. 1 PM - 6 PM. Annual family/community Pride Picnic. Burgers, hot dogs, buns provided. Please bring a dish to pass. You can preregister for the event at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php> and read more about the event at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. *Volunteers to work 1 hour shifts with kitchen help and registration help are needed!* Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Jun 25 - Post-Picnic Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "Come Celebrate Gaynicity with us at Trance after the Gay Pride Picnic! Be Here! Be Queer!" Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 29 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 2 - Indepen-Dance Daze at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Celebrate the good ole' USA at our 6th annual Independence Day Party! Wear red, white or blue! Dress as Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty or wear fun patriotic boxers! Parade on in and dance under the fireworks on the dance floor as we light up the night! American Pride! - Gay Fun! Get into the Zone!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Jul 2 - Jenny P at July 4 Weekend at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Jenny P from Cleveland's Club Bounce will be kicking off the July 4th weekend. Come out and wear your red, white and of course blue! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jul 3 - Pittsburgh Boat Cruise Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA. "Boarding time 4:30 PM til 5. Leaves at 5 PM, docks at 8:30 PM. Party til 9 PM. Tickets \$20 in advance. Tickets available at the Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie and all Pittsburgh local bars. Tickets are \$25 (if available) at the boat.

Jul 6 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Jul 9 - GLBT/Friendly Business Expo - POSTPONED For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Jul 9 - Drag Show: Rich Girl at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie. 10:30 PM. "Get into the Zone for an evening of great entertainment! Come see our extravagant show, 'Rich Girl' as our stunning ladies give a glamorous rags-to-riches performance as 'Girls From The Gutter.' Be part of the fun as we roll out this red carpet event as only the Zone Girls can do!!" (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jul 11 - 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.

Jul 12 - Support group for those dealing with loss Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie,

Bethany J. Robson, CSW-R
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Calendar

PA. 7 PM. Also meets Thursday, July 21 at 10 AM/
Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

Jul 15 - Deadline for August 2005 EGN.

Jul 16 - Combined 10% Network and Menspace meets (Greg and Jim's, 20996 Kightlinger Rd, Venango, PA) Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 20 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 23 - Vampire/Goth Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "Come out, come out, wherever you are! Wear your blackest black!" Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 3 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Aug 6 - Menspace meets at Bruce's (Bruce Walker's, 1408 Evans City Road, Evans City, PA) 4 PM. Monthly men's social group. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Aug 6 - Fundraiser for PFLAG at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. 8-10 PM. See PFLAG article page 13. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 8 - PFLAG-Erie Crawford meets Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com.

Aug 13 - Crime Center Book It Sale at the Center, 125 West 18th Street, in same plaza as by The Zone. For more information, call (814) 455-9414.

Aug 21 - Pride Pier (Buffalo NY) Buffalo's big summer bash www.pridecenterwny.org

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On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Now till June 25

Play: *The Mystery of Irma Vep* at Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA. By Charles Ludlum, starring Jeff Rodland and Brian Altman who will be playing all the roles both male and female. Ludlum was the artistic director of the infamous Ridiculous Theatre Company in New York. The troupe was known for producing hilarious farces, often written by Ludlum, and always casting men in drag in all the female roles. Through June 25, 2005. The production is directed by Brad Harrington (814) 456-5656. www.goerie.com/roadhouse.

Jun 25

North Coast Men's Chorus presents Michael Feinstein Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. What an evening this is gonna be!" www.ncmchorus.org

Jul 8 - 29 - Play: *Humor at Mock 10* St. Patrick's Cauley Auditorium, 215 E. 4th St., Erie, PA. The

United We Stand Theater Troupe presents its summer show, *Humor at Mock 10*, an original play written by Rob Kocur. Some community members in cast. It is a collection of funny, irreverent, satirical skits. July 8-29. Plenty free parking. Showtimes are 8 PM. \$8 general admission, \$6 seniors and students. Contact: Rob Kocur. Phone: (814) 459-5084. Email: rbk520@velocity.net. www.uwstt.org.

July 19

In concert: Tegan & Sara at the Rex Theatre Pittsburgh, PA Rex Theatre 1602 East Carson, Pittsburgh PA (412)381-6811 Web: www.teganandsara.com/index.php and www.rextheatre.com/

Websites and email lists for area performers:

Jocelyn Porter Project

www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

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



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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

Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System (MHEDS) 814.453.6229 or 814.453-4728

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

“A Walk on the Wild Side” – A walk through STD Clinic

By Patty Puline, Erie County Health Department and Jen Dobberstein, Slippery Rock University

Today you have entered the Erie County Health Department's STD Clinic. Be prepared for a walk on the wild side, a walk through STD Clinic. As you enter the building, you will receive a number and have a seat in the waiting area.

Throughout your visit, you will be referred to by your number, to maintain confidentiality and abide by HIPPA regulations as mandated by the State Department of Health. We adhere to strict confidentiality at all times, so don't be offended if they say, "Number Two, please enter this room"

The next step is to register with the clerk; this process takes just a few minutes for her to gather demographic information to be used for reporting purposes. This is exactly the same as the process you would incur+++ at your family care provider's office.

Now you will be sent back to the waiting area until a nurse calls your number again, then you'll be ushered into an examination room. Here you will be asked an oral history about sexual exposure, risk of STD or HIV, immunization records, and domestic abuse.

Now the nurse needs to complete the physical examination, so you must remove outer clothing for this part of the examination. If you are female, you will be offered a pap test.

Males do not have to submit to the old-fashioned "cotton swab" inserted into the urethra, a standard procedure which was used for years, and one

which intimidated a lot of men. This has been replaced with a urine specimen, from which Chlamydia and Gonorrhea can be detected. Also, a specimen from the penis is conducted by touching the tip to a slide, then this slide is sent to the lab in house for possible bacterial infections. If an infection is found, they will treat it immediately, so there is no need to go to the pharmacy.

The doctor is your next step; here he will review your chart and lab specimens, and make recommendations or treat for possible infections. Medication is provided free of charge to all patients. If sores are visible, the doctor will conduct a physical exam.

Your last step is an exit interview with the epidemiologist investigator for patient referral of possible exposure. Counseling and medication is discussed, "the **DO's and DON'Ts**".

Discussion of safer sex practices and harm reduction plans are implemented at this stage.

Partner notification is available if the client cannot talk to their partners about infections, or diseases they have developed. If the patient gives names to the epidemiologist investigator, the investigator contacts partners and notifies them of possible exposure, and offers ECDH clinic information, dates and times of STD clinic.

Condoms are offered and the client is encouraged to think about a plan for the future on how to keep them safe and monogamous. Faithfulness is encouraged; the health department follows the ABC's

A – Be Abstinent

B – Be Monogamous

C – Use a Condom

A – If you can't be abstinent, then **B** – be monogamous, one partner and be faithful, or if you have multiple partners, always use a **C**- condom. So follow your ABC's!

Clinic hours are available in this magazine every month, look at our ad for the Erie County Department of Health, or visit our website @ www.ecdh.org.

For more information, call Patty Puline, Health Educator, (814) 451-6543 or email her at ppuline@ecdh.org.

Helpful numbers

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline 1-888-843-GLNH www.glnh.org/index_.html

Covenant House Nineline (youth)
1-800-999-9999

Trevor Helpline for Suicidal Gay Youth
1-800-850 8078

National News Briefs

by Bob

Scotland Moves to Allow Gay Couples to Adopt

Despite protests from the Catholic Church, the government of Scotland has announced plans to allow lesbian and gay couples to adopt children.

The proposals would bring Scottish laws to the same level as laws in England and Wales, and would bring adoption policies in line with the forthcoming Civil Partnership Act (CPA). Previously, a lesbian or gay man in Scotland could adopt a child, but not as part of a couple.

While Cardinal Keith O'Brien, the Archbishop of Edinburgh and leader of Scotland's Catholics, called the plans "gravely immoral," adoption agencies say the change will help ease the current backlog of children needing homes.

Scotland's deputy Education Minister Euan Robson, said the new law would address the "confus-

ing legal position," adding that the changes would be made in the best interests of the child. Cardinal O'Brien disputed that claim accusing lesbian and gay people of having "fragile" relationships.

"Such a measure would distort the understanding of the family, cause harm to children and promote the status of homosexual relationships," he told the Scottish press. "Homosexual unions are notoriously fragile and unstable," he added.

Gays in Poland Defy "Pride" Ban

Some 2,500 LGBT people and their supporters took to the streets of Warsaw, Poland recently calling for more recognition and demanding that Mayor Lech Kaczynski relax his anti-gay stance.

Kaczynski issued a ban against any Pride parade, warning that it was akin to "propagating gay orientation." But marchers took to the streets in defi-

(Continued on next page)

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National News

ance of Kaczynski's order after receiving messages of support from gay rights groups across Europe.

Organizers of the march said the mayor was barring the event because of his homophobic attitudes, pointing to his attempt to block last year's event as well. Those attending the march held banners criticizing the treatment of LGBT people in Poland, which is staunchly Catholic.

California School Fined for Not Protecting Students

A California jury has fined a California school district \$300,000 for not adequately protecting its gay and lesbian students.

The fine was the result of a lawsuit brought by students Joseph Ramelli and Megan Donovan against the Poway School District outside San Diego. They claimed the district and several school administrators failed to take any action to stop harassment the two experienced because of their sexuality.

Ramelli testified that he was called names, was shoved in the hallways and was the target for food and spit. Donovan claimed that her junior varsity softball teammates refused to talk to her after learning of her sexual orientation, with one teammate refusing to play if Donovan stayed on the team. When Donovan failed to make the varsity team in 2003, her mother questioned the school's athletic director, asking if her daughter had been barred because of her sexuality. The two said they had to be home-schooled their senior year because of the constant harassment.

Although the jury ruled that Donovan's sexuality was not the reason for her exclusion from the softball

team, it awarded monetary damages to both students: \$175,000 for Ramelli and \$125,000 for Donovan.

"The money was never the important thing," attorney Paula Rosenstein told to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. "We're hoping that the next time some kids and their parents come to these administrators, they will take a different action."

Poway Superintendent Don Phillips insisted his school district does not tolerate discrimination and said the school's attorneys are recommending an appeal.

Judge Says Rainbow Flags Can Fly

Rainbow flags began flying over the historic Bridge of Lions in St. Augustine, FL after a federal judge ruled against city leaders who had turned down requests by a local LGBT group to fly the flags.

The flag controversy, which dates back to 2003, began when the St. Augustine Pride Committee (SAPC) applied for a permit to fly the Pride flags on the bridge during the city's LGBT Pride celebration. The St. Augustine City Commission denied SAPC's request then and again in 2004 and 2005, even though the group said it consistently met the city's requirements.

This year, SAPC decided to file suit against the city in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville, with legal assistance from Equality Florida and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR).

Federal Judge Henry Lee Adams Jr. ruled against the city, granting SAPC a temporary injunction that forced the city to fly the rainbow flags.

"The city raised the flags at dawn and they're absolutely beautiful," said the Rev. Ruth Jensen, co-chair of SAPC.

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National News

Pope Benedict Condemns Gay Marriage

In predictable fashion, Pope Benedict XVI condemned same-sex unions in his first pronouncement since his election as pope. The Pope called same-sex unions fake and threatening to the future of the family.

“Today’s various forms of dissolution of marriage — free unions and trial marriages as well as the pseudomatrmonies between people of the same sex — are instead expressions of anarchic freedom which falsely tries to pass itself off as the true liberation of man,” Benedict XVI said in a 14-page speech that also condemned divorce, artificial birth control and abortion.

“The greatest expression of freedom is not the search for pleasure,” he added, claiming that society is intent on tearing down the moral goal posts he believes are necessary for the future.

“Today, a particularly insidious obstacle to [moral] education is the overwhelming presence in our society and culture of a type of relativism that recognizes nothing as definitive,” he said.

The Pope’s pronouncement came as no surprise to Vatican observers, given Benedict’s strict conservative teachings as a Cardinal and as a close associate of the late John Paul II.

*Register online for the
June 25 Pride Erie Picnic at
www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php*

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GET TESTED
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offers FREE and confidential testing.

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814-459-4775 HIV is expensive....
Love Carefully!

PFLAG News

*by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties
Chapter*

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Come, one and all, to the fabulous **Variety Show**, Saturday, August 6th, 8-10 PM., at **Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St., Erie. We are lining up some great acts. We guarantee it will be fun! There will be door prizes and drinks will be available during the show.

PFLAG-Erie is holding this event as its annual fundraiser. We need YOU to help us make it successful, so that we can continue our mission to promote the welfare of GLBT people, through support, education and advocacy of equal rights. Your attendance will make our event a success, and will build solidarity for our cause.

If you are an entertainer, we need you to donate your time to entertain us in the variety show. Trance has a wonderful stage and outstanding lighting. Please call Maureen at (814)-898-8341, or email her at pflegerie@eriegaynews.com to make arrangements. If you represent an organization, we need your organization to sponsor a table at the August 6 event (\$100). Entertainers and organizational sponsors will benefit from the “PR” you will get when you see your name under the lights!!! If you are an individual, we need you to donate \$10 for a ticket and come see our wonderful show. There will be door prizes, and drinks will be available for purchase during the show. If you cannot attend, we hope you would consider sending a donation to us at P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

Meeting Notes

PFLAG holds regular support group meetings the second Monday of every month, from 7-9 PM., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. (Take exit 27 off of Rte. 90, go north about a half mile). Our next meeting is Monday, July 11th. We also hold periodic support group meetings for parents whose children have recently “come out”, and for straight spouses of GLBT people. For support, call Maureen at (814)-898-8341, email us at pflegerie@eriegaynews.com, or write to P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

Letters

Many Christian sects, Republican politicians and like-minded extremists are escalating their venomous bigotry. They focus on shrilly denying our humanity – the way we’re genetically engineered to live - saying that our very nature is ‘unforgivable’. That’s an insane superstition born in the Dark Ages and nurtured by sociopaths. It’s an excuse for bigotry, and the only motive for bigotry is promoting violence.

The superstitious cults scapegoat us to counteract their declining influence, child rape scandals, etc., while Republicans do it to draw attention from their illegal war and plummeting polls. Their poisonous assaults metastasize into abuse and hostility, giving the green light for ‘hands on’ thugs to get violent.

A Colorado bigot-thug who gloated that he’d “bug squashed a faggot” was imprisoned for murdering a young man. His remarks show no guilt because he’s saturated with religious and political bigotry. So were three Texas thugs who almost kicked the face off another young man (for which one got an obscenely light sentence and two probation) and the thug who slaughtered a young woman in New Jersey.

According to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, 84% of gay and lesbian high school students’ endure regular verbal harassment while 40% are physically harassed. They’re not alone. An April 2005 report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs indicates growing violence, with a 4% overall increase in anti-LGBT violence, rising from 1,720 in 2003 to 1,792 in 2004. Murders rose from 18 in 2003 to 20 in 2004 - some of those were lynchings. Total victims rose 4%, from 2,042 in 2003 to 2,131 in 2004. (Keep in mind that the NCAVP’s tallies are indicative but incomplete because of unreported or misleading information.)

Whatever the numbers these beatings and murders are unforgivable and intolerable. When they happen we should launch campaigns and demonstrations demanding laws that insure that those who provoke and justify bigotry are jailed along with the thugs.

Our legal organizations should be urged to initiate lawsuits making all of them pay for their crimes. The KKK was KO’d by the fiercely successful lawsuits filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center and the roman church is paying hundreds and hundreds of millions to child rape victims. They’re a multi-edged weapon that provides needed compensation, bankrupts extremist cults and organizations, while having a singularly calming effect on superstitious and political bigots.

Bill Perdue, Las Vegas, Nevada

PS - I like your clock for Bush’s remaining time in office, although Democrats are no better than Republicans. Keep in mind that impeachment is not out of the question.

**They can't stamp
your meal card
NO DESSERT!**



**and they can't take
away your VA benefits**

So what are you waiting for?

National Veterans Coming Out Day

1 MILLION LGBT Veterans COME OUT

for 65,000 service members who CAN'T!

for more info - www.aver.us/NVCOD



**Oct 11
2005**

Erie Gay News print edition
can be viewed online at
www.eriegaynews.com

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler, Co-Editor

As I write this, I am preparing for the Pride Picnic. I am really excited that things are looking well, and that folks have been so kind to volunteer to help out. It was really nifty that we were contacted by Out TV from Canada about filming. Fortunately, announcements about the Pride Picnic are relatively well circulated. Here's also hoping that we can collect a lot of donations for the Food Bank! We did relatively well last year, and hoping we can top it this year.

I am very much excited by the face photo project. Again, hoping that we get good participation on that. Nothing would make me happier than to see the diverse and beautiful smiling faces of our community on the Friends and Supporters page. It's important to have representations of both groups (as in the Family Portraits), as well as individuals. I truly believe that it is small actions like this that ultimately produce progress.

I was very surprised and saddened to hear about Rascals burning down in Jamestown. Rascals had al-

ways been very good about keeping the newsletter informed about events. They will be missed.

It was wonderful that Erie County Council overturned Schenker's veto to allow the local Human Relations Commission ordinance to actually hire staff and have an office again. Local cases are resolved in much less time. It just makes more sense to not make folks jump through hoops and allow them to go on with their lives.

An odd encounter: someone had called to volunteer to help with the Picnic and asked if I remembered him. The name/voice wasn't ringing any bells, but I deal with a lot of folks. He was chatting a bit further, and mentioned that he "remembered" me from the Washington Bar and Grill and also referred to having gone to the large picnics at Presque Isle back in the 1970's. I said that I have never been to either of those, and we finally figured out that he had me confused with someone in the community with a similar name. Mystery solved!

Anywho, see you at the Pride Picnic!!!!



Meet Kathleen Hanson, Kathleen is a Case Manager in our Erie office, she has been with the Northwest Alliance for 2 years and has been in the field of social work for 15 years. Kathleen is another of the dedicated people you'll find at the Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

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**

**"GET TESTED: YOU NEED TO KNOW"
EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION**

Ofrecemos examinaciones mèdicas, ademàs de servicios mèdicos, educativos, financieros y de apoyo para los que estan infectados de VIH o de SIDA dentro del noroeste de Pensilania. Hay clinicas en Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville y Farrell con personal especializado en el tratamiento de VIH.

Hàgase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

ERIE PRIDE

P · I · C · N · I · C 2005

Saturday, June 25, 2005

At Presque Isle

1PM to 6PM

Food Served From

2PM to 5PM

Family Portrait at 4PM

Games! Food!

Full kitchen

Large cabin

Near beaches,

Bike Trail,

Bike Rental

Modern,

Indoor Restrooms

Rotary Pavilion

*Across from Beach,
near Waterworks Cabins*

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!!!**

This year we are asking for volunteers to serve 1 hour shifts in the kitchen and at the registration table! If everyone pitches in, then everyone gets to enjoy the day and not be inconvenienced.

Please contact Mike Mahler about volunteering. It's also a great way to meet people and make friends. We are also encouraging folks to preregister online for the Pride Picnic.



For more information call:
814-456-9833



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

State law prohibits alcohol at the Park.