

August 2005



EGN

Erie Gay News



Music, Gender, and Identity class offered at Edinboro

This fall, *Music, Gender, and Identity* will be offered by the Music Department at Edinboro University. This 3-credit course focuses on women and gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people in music. Through examining current trends in music, starting with Lilith Fair and moving to House/Techno and Club music, we'll look at how music constructs gender identity and how gender shapes music. This course is open to degree and non-degree students. For more information, please contact Dr. Daniel Burdick at dburdick@edinboro.edu or call him at 814.602.0252. Register online at: <http://www.edinboro.edu>.

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. For more information, call (814) 455-9414.

—*from the Crime Victim Center*

Fall Gay Pride 2005

The Fall Pride March and Rally are set for Saturday, October 15, 2005! Currently we plan to organize at 12:30 PM with the march beginning at 1 PM. The march will start on the north side of 12th St. and go down State St. to Perry Square. The Rally will begin at 2 PM with speakers and other guests. We're still looking for ideas from you for the day. So, please email us at eriegaypride@yahoo.com or call me at 814.602.0252.

—*Dan Burdick, Fall Gay Pride 2005 Coordinator*



Darla, Becky, Steph, Mina, and James, making bubble magic at the Erie Pride Picnic, June 25. More photos inside.

Womynspace Activities

Please note that Womynspace is working on becoming active again. They have a picnic scheduled for Saturday, July 30 at 2 PM in Bicentennial Park in Meadville (see the calendar listing for more info), and plans for a canoeing trip in August. For more info, contact Darla at (814) 336-5388, email her at fluffybear@velocity.net, or browse to <http://womynspace.eriegaynews.com> to join the email list.

—*from Darla*

Fundraiser for Crime Victim Center

Cruisin' Rods & Kustoms is hosting their 2005 Jamboree August 6 and 7 at Sparrow Pond Campground (6 miles south of I-90 on Rt. 19). This is an open event featuring pre '72 cars with awards and trophy for Best of Show being presented on Sunday. Sammy Slicker and the Blackjacks will entertain each

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Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
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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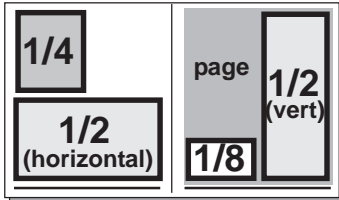
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To Bob, Wes Eades, Allen Lozelle, Lynne Rhodes, Kevin Schultz, Chris Strayer and James von Loewe for folding; Wes Eades, Chris Strayer, Lynne Rhodes, James von Loewe, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King & Dave S for distribution; and Bob for proofreading. Mike Lipiec 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

EGN Ad Rates



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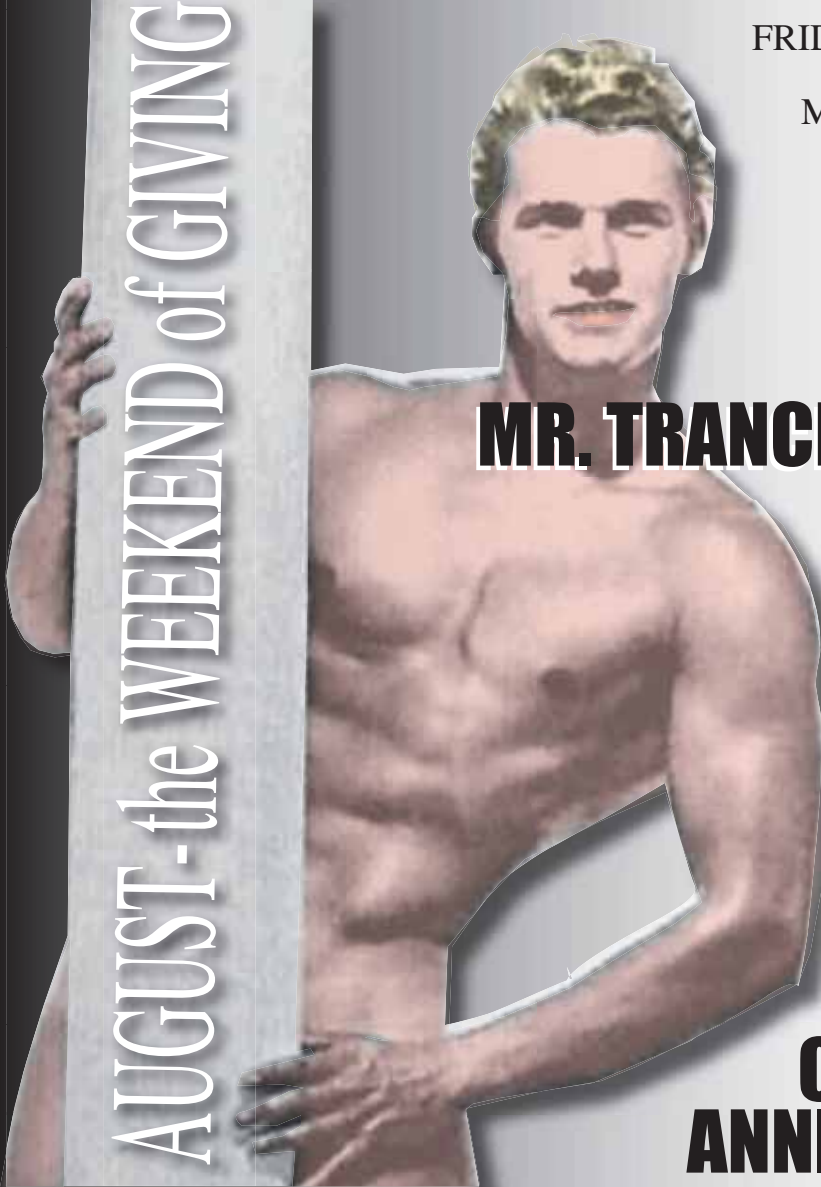
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AUGUST - the WEEKEND of GIVING



FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th
Benefit Show for
Michael Jaden Wood
10 - 11:30 PM

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 6th
PFLAG Fundraiser
Showcase
7 - 10 PM

MR. TRANCE LEATHER

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 19th
To become
a contestant
contact Lee @
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SATURDAY,
AUGUST 20th
The Military
Uniform Party

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3

OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

(continued from cover)

day from 11 AM to 3 PM. There will be crafts, games and food available both days. A Sunset Cruise around Presque Isle will take place on Saturday.

Proceeds from the event will benefit thousands of men, women and children at the Crime Victim Center of Erie County. For more information about the Jamboree, call George at (814) 833-7050 or Warren at (814) 833-6173.

—from *Crime Victim Center*

Ari Gold to Headline Buffalo's Pride at the Pier

Pride at the Pier is already a hot time, but this year will be even hotter as Western New York welcomes gay club sensation Ari Gold.

Gold is slated to headline Pride at the Pier on Sunday, August 21. Buffalo's big summer bash runs from 2 to 7 PM, with beer, pop, food and entertainment included in the ticket price. Tickets go on sale August 1st and are \$15 presale and \$20 at the gate. Presale tickets will be available online right here on our webpage and at several establishments on Allen Street.

Gold's second album, *Space Under the Sun*, debuted at the top of the Outvoice charts in January 2004. The Advocate raved, "Gold performs with equal parts of sly, finger-snappin' sass and earthy R&B finesse Gold has assembled an impressive posse of collaborators to frame his voice with the crisp yet fleshy sound of a platinum-selling recording."

Several other attractions will highlight the event, including music from local dj's and appearances by some of your favorite abOUT Magazine cover models.

This year's Pride at the Pier is generously sponsored by AAA Travel, Budweiser, Club Marcella, HSBC/GLOBE, Hunt Realty, Kaleida Health, Lifetime Health, Medical Answering Service, Sahlen's Hot Dogs, Try-It Distributors and Wegmans. Our thanks go to all our sponsors for their kind contributions.

Info: (716) 852-7743 www.pridecenterwny.org

—from *Pride Center of WNY*

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

Cleveland Black Gay Pride

from Black, Gay, and Proud

Cleveland's weeklong Black, Gay and Proud Pride celebration runs from August 1 to August 7. Below is the schedule available at this writing. For the most current information, and for details about times, locations, etc. visit www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com or call (216)937-2268.

August 1 - Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony 6-9 PM. Admission free. Hovorka Atrium (CWRU) Presented by BlackOut Unlimited and CWRU Center For Women.

August 2 - *Black, Gay & Proud in Cleveland*, premiere of documentary film, plus an extremely special movie screening, 6 PM, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University.

August 3 - Harlem Nights, featuring Dark Divas of Drag and Sophisticated Gents of Song, 5, 7 PM, A Sharp's Night Out, formerly the Robin's Nest, 4059 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland.

August 4 - Art Explosion, Silent auction and poetry blast, 6 PM, Wyndham Hotel, followed by a special reception at Hamilton's Martini Bar.

August 5 - The Red Hott Affair, Red-attired dinner and dance, 8 PM, \$25, advanced ticket sales only, Cada di Borally, 27227 Chardon Rd, Richmond Hts (Cleveland).

August 6

State of Black Gay America Symposium: It's a She Thang, town hall meeting with national and local panelists, 12PM, Ford Auditorium, Case Western Reserve University.

White Fantasia, white-attire affair with food, dancing and a special performance by Teria Griffin, 30 advance, \$40 door, 9 PM, Cleveland Health Museum, 8911 Euclid Ave, Cleveland.

August 7

Raise the Roof Gospel Service, 9:30 AM breakfast, 11 am service, Archwood UCC, 2800 Archwood Ave, Cleveland.

Family Festival, Food, entertainment, dancing, vendors and a kids' corner, 12 noon, Kirkland Park, East 49th and South Marginal Rd, Cleveland.

Black, Gay and Proud Closing Party, 9 PM, Club 2527, 2527 West 25th St, Cleveland.

—from *Black, Gay and Proud*

Companies carrying Logo TV

LOGO is the new cable channel serving the GLBT audience.. In the city of Erie, Time Warner Cable is not currently carrying Logo. However, a representative said that if enough people wrote to Time Warner Cable, 530 South Main St, Suite 1751, Akron OH 44311, they would. In Erie County, outside the city of Erie, Adelphia is currently carrying LOGO is on digital cable 139. In Chautauqua County, NY, Adelphia is carrying LOGO on channel 161.

For more information on Logo,—including where it is being carried—visit <http://www.logoonline.com/>

WHERE?
CAN YOU FIND
EGN
Erie Gay News

Check Out Our Website at: www.eriegaynews.com
for our list of locations

More details about the fire that destroyed Rascals

JAMESTOWN, NY-- Rascal's Brass Rail, one of two gay bars in Jamestown, was destroyed by a fire that started at 2:02 AM, Saturday June 11, shortly after last call. Firefighters arrived at the scene to find heavy smoke billowing from the roof, fire on the first and second floors and people rushing to get to safety. A 911 call made by a bartender in the North Main Street building brought firefighters to the scene. "At the time we arrived, there was heavy smoke pushing out of the roof line," said Battalion Chief Chet Harvey, Jamestown Fire Department.

The Jamestown Post Journal reported "We could see fire on the first floor on the northwest corner of the building and fire showing on the second floor in the rear-middle of the building. By 6 AM., the fire was under control, but it had destroyed the building. There are still burning coals there this Saturday afternoon." The building holds two addresses — 701 and 705 N. Main — and belongs to Glenn Hamilton.

No injuries were reported from any of the patrons in the bars. When fire fighters arrived, an employee said everyone had escaped the fire. Local authorities had not yet determined the cause of the fire.

"We made a pretty good attack on the first floor, but the fire spread too quickly and we had to pull our fire fighters out," Harvey said. "When that happened, we worked from the outside and just tried



Above, the building that housed Rascals Brass Rail, after the June 11 fire.

PHOTO: ROGER C.

to protect the buildings next to the fire. The building collapsed while we were fighting the fire. About half of the building was still standing and the owner arranged for a contractor to take the walls down today because we were still concerned that the wall would collapse onto the joining property."

Twenty men fought the fire while 12 additional fire fighters covered other calls that came in at the same time as the fire on North Main Street. Power was cut to businesses nearby and repairs are being made. Jamestown fire fighters are continuing their investigation.

—reprinted from *Outcome.com* (Buffalo NY)

Calendar

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

Jul 30 - Womynspace Picnic Bicentennial Park French St and Mead Ave, Meadville PA. 2 PM.

“Bring a dish to share with everyone. Womynspace group will provide pop to drink, plates and silverware. At the picnic we will talk about the plans for a canoe trip for August and events for the coming months.” Contact: Darla. Phone: (814) 336-5388. Email: fluffybear@velocity.net. Browse to <http://womynspace.eriegaynews.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 5 - Benefit Show for Michael Jaden Wood at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 10 PM - 11:30 PM. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

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. 7-10 PM. NOTE TIME CHANGE! “Come enjoy an exciting talent show, meet friends, and support PFLAG. We are lining up some great acts, and welcome volunteers to perform—song, dance, skits, bands, comedy, all are welcome. Being over 21 and giving a \$10 tax-deductible donation will get you in to enjoy the entertainment. Groups or businesses can sponsor a table for

\$100 donation. We look forward to seeing you!” See PFLAG article page 18. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 6 - Performance: 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E. 10th St, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Phone: (814) 461-9966. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

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 9 - Hospice Support group for those dealing with loss Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Also meets Aug 18 at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

Aug 9 to 14 - Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (near Hart MI), 30th annual event. <http://www.michfest.com>, (231)757-4766.

Aug 10 - '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>.

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

Aug 13 - Island Heat! Tropical Beach Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W. 18th St, Erie, PA. “Aloha! Calling all Island Boys and Native Girls to come join

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Aug 12-14 - Arktos 11th Annual Bears in the Woods Run at Camp Davis (Boyers, PA) "A weekend campout in the beautiful hills of Western Pennsylvania. This is the largest outdoor bear event in the region, with over 400 in attendance." www.arktos-online.com (330)434-4860.

Aug 15 - Deadline for September 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>.

Aug 19 - Mr. Trance Leather at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. To become a contestant, contact Lee at (814) 881-2297 Contact: Lee. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 20 - The Military Uniform Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 21 - Pride Pier (Buffalo NY) Buffalo's big summer bash. For details see article on page 4 or visit www.pridecenterwny.org

Aug 26 - Fairy Tales show at the Zone Dance Club 133 W. 18th St, Erie. 10:30 PM. "Join us for a great evening of entertainment as we take a trip to where

fantasy and reality become one. Unlock the magical mysteries of mermaids, monsters, and fairies. Whisk away to a land deep inside your imagination. Enjoy the marvel as the Zone Dance Club proudly presents our August show, 'Fairy Tales.' Come join the extravaganza as we also celebrate the birthdays of our performers Angelica, Vanessa, and Taylor. Don't miss this night of spectacular, high energy performances." Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Aug 28 - Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland) "Annual outdoor dance party benefiting the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, will return to its roots as a street festival this year." (quote from Gay People's Chronicle). 1 to 8 PM, Clifton Blvd. between West 116th and West 117th, Cleveland; (216) 221-2333.

Aug 31 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeshop Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Sep 2 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA) Lyndora Firehall, 114 Whitestown Road, Butler, PA. Vertigo is BYOB we supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just bring your booze. Email: vertigov@aol.com. Browse to <http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov>.

(Continued on next page)

Pride Picnic 2005 Gallery



Drawing tickets for door prizes.

Park Avenue
NEWS

1206 Park Avenue
Meadville, PA 16335
814.724.4690

Dennis L. Halcomb
Proprietor

Calendar

Sep 2 - 4 - Woof Weekend (Pittsburgh, PA) Mr. Steel City Bear. Kennywood & Picnic. Sponsored by Burgh Bears. Phone: (412) 422-8850. Email: info@burghbears.com. Browse to <http://www.burghbears.org/event.htm>.

Sep 3 - Trance: Our First Anniversary at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>. Sep 5 - Labor Day

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

Sep 12 - 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.

Sep 13 - Support group for those dealing with loss (Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E. 10th St, Erie.)

7 PM. Also meets Sep 15 at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

Sep 17 - Ohio Lesbian Festival, 16th annual all-day music festival at Frontier Ranch, 8836 York Rd. at U.S. 40, ½ mile west of Kirkersville, Ohio, 15 miles east of Columbus. (614) 562-0577, www.ohiolba.org.

Sep 22 - 25 - Great Lakes Film Festival Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts, 145 W. 11th St, Erie, PA The Great Lakes Independent Film Festival takes place every year at the Roadhouse Theater in Erie, PA. In addition to the annual Festival, the Great Lakes Film Association also hosts other events around the Erie, County area throughout the year. See our website for more details! Contact: Steve Opsanic. Phone: (814) 456-5656. Email: stev@greatlakesfilmfest.com. Browse to <http://www.greatlakesfilmfest.com>.

Oct 15 - Fall Pride March and Rally (Erie, PA) See article on front page. Contact: Dan Burdick. Phone: (814) 602-0252. Email: eriegaypride@yahoo.com.

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural Aids Alliance

is pleased to sponsor

Positive Living Support Group

It is open to anyone that is HIV positive and would like to share ideas, experiences and support with others. All participants will be treated with confidentiality.

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

Sue Bobosky at:

1-800-359-AIDS

2437



Pride Picnic wrap up

by Mike Mahler

Huge thanks to everyone who made the 2005 Erie Pride Picnic such a wonderful success! We had about 300 people attend, about the same/slightly down from last year. This year's Picnic was held on the 4th Saturday, due to a scheduling issue. Next year we will be back to the 2nd Saturday in June. There was a wide diversity of members and friends of the community represented. And keeping up a 13 event streak, we once again had beautiful weather! All 3 local TV news stations reported on the event.

We have a gallery of photos at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/photoblog>. We also welcome additional photos that other folks took. You can also purchase T-Shirts with Pride Picnic photos at <http://shop.eriegaynews.com>

There were so many people who made important contributions to the picnic's success. Thanks go out to the donors who gave or lent materials that made the picnic possible: Coca Cola of Erie, Wegmans (Peach Street), Giant Eagle Harborcreek, the Zone Dance Club and Trance Dance Club. Cascade United Methodist Church was kind enough to lend us roasting pans to keep the burgers and hot dogs warm.

We also gave away a number of door prizes this year, expanding on what we did last year. Thanks go out to Boatmaster Detailing, Pie in the Sky Cafe, Two Friends Italian Market, Allen Stoneware, Eclectic Etceteras, Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe, Trance Dance Club and the Zone Dance Club.

Please support these businesses who support us! We are deeply grateful that there are so many good and supportive business in the area!

We also had volunteers assigned to areas for hour long shifts for the first time this year. Huge thanks go to staff/volunteers AJS, Dan Burdick, Nikki, Heather, and Tara for working the registration table; Kevin Schultz for phenomenal help with taking photos; also Tim Zarnick, Janet, Tim Dahle, Preston Blood, and Rick Blair for also taking photos; Brian and Larry for kitchen supervision, and many, *many* other tasks; Judy, Julie, Marshall Snyder, Gary, Nancy for cooking and kitchen organizing; James von Loewe for painting the giant rainbow rings and making them look all shiny and new, as well as cooking; Bob for cooking; Tony, Chris, Shirley, Dok and Jamie for clean up; Brian Bohrer, for lending us a roaster pan; Deb Spilko for tak-

(continued next page)

Pride Picnic 2005 Gallery



The TV crew from OutTV visited the Erie Pride Picnic to film the first episode of expanded The Chris and John Road Show.



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ing photos; Mike Lipiec for designing a nifty flyer yet once again; SHOUT Outreach, PFLAG, Erie County Department of Health, and American Veterans for Equal Rights for putting together the info tables; and a bonus thanks to Brian, Larry, Bob and etc. for helping to organize. On a personal note, many thanks to Mike and Willie, who took me out to dinner and helped move materials from the attic to the vestibule the night before the Picnic. That was particularly thoughtful. I apologize for anyone that I may have overlooked.

We were also very glad to have the Chris and John Road Show film their premiere episode of their series here! This is a 1/2 hour comedy/reality show series that will premiere this fall on OUT TV, a gay cable network from Canada. They came to the picnic and filmed folks, and set up Dan on a date with Tim. The men went to papermoon, Green Garden Bowling Lanes and Trance. The episode will premiere in September/October. We will also be getting a copy of the episode to show here as well. The producer saw the info for the Pride Erie Picnic online, and decided to film here.

Political figures attending included Tim Zarnick, (at the time of the picnic, he was running as a Republican candidate for Erie City Mayor), Joe Giles, Democratic Erie County Councilmember, and Joy Greco, Republican Erie County Councilmember and candidate for Millcreek Township Supervisor.

For those who you who like to mark your calendars very far in advance, the 2006 Pride Picnic will be Saturday, June 10 from 1 PM to 6 PM at the Rotary Pavilion. For more info about the Pride Erie Picnic, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.


There was a collection of nonperishable items for the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA. We collected 81 pounds for the food bank. Go team!

Bethany J. Robson, CSW-R

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On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Humor at Mock 10 July 8-29. 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 of 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.

Salome and the Dance of the Seven Veils July 29-August 20 at Buffalo United Artists "In the same vein as past productions such as *The Bad Seed*, *Rebecca*, and last summer's hit *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Salome and the Dance of the Seven Veils*, conceived by Chris Kelly and Jimmy Janowski, is a parody of the Hollywood biblical epics of the 1950's. In this

version we learn the Bible didn't get it quite right!" Main Street Cabaret 672 Main Street, Buffalo NY (716) 886-9239 <http://www.buffalobua.org/enter1.html>

August 2 - L. P., Architects (ex-Gadjits), The Down Ten, Beachland Ballroom & Tavern, Cleveland, (216)383-1124 www.beachlandballroom.com/ 9 PM, \$7, Tavern.

August 6 - Phranc in concert Beachland Ballroom & Tavern, Cleveland (216)383-1124 www.beachlandballroom.com

August 30 - Tori Amos at Tower City Amphitheater, Cleveland Ohio www.towercityamphitheater.com

September 14 - Melissa Ferrick at Club Cafe in Pittsburgh <http://www.clubcafelive.com/>

Rocky Horror In Concert! September 24 & 25, October 1 & 2 at the Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts, 145 W 11th St., Erie. (814) 456-5656. Email: pipedown3@msn.com Web Site: <http://www.goerie.com/roadhouse> "All the songs! Live Band! Party afterwards at The Plymouth!"

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/AIDS Outreach: A Health Education Intern's First Experience

By Hank Cullers, Slippery Rock University
Erie County Department of Health

Recently, the Erie Gay News hosted the Annual Erie Gay Pride Picnic at Presque Isle State Park. I had the opportunity to do my first HIV/AIDS outreach at this event as a Health Education Intern from the Erie County Department of Health. As we all know, HIV or AIDS can affect people from many different walks of life. HIV/AIDS has been visible in the public for more than 20 years, but unfortunately there are numerous people who still don't know much about the virus or the disease itself. This is where health educators come into play.



Considering that 45% of all new HIV infections in Erie County are among *Men Who Have Sex with Men* (MSM), this was an ideal occasion to educate the community on protecting themselves. Sometimes it's much easier to ignore a problem because you don't want to deal with it, but it's not always the wisest decision. I've noticed that many people adopt this form of thinking about HIV/AIDS. This could be because it scares them or maybe they think that it could never happen

to them. Guess what, unfortunately, it can happen; and part of my job as a health educator is to equip people with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves.

My first experience at the picnic was absolutely wonderful. It was a beautiful day, people were happy, the food was delicious, and everyone was celebrating their personal lifestyles together. It was fulfilling to see people "let go" and have fun for themselves in a place where they didn't have to worry about discrimination or intolerance. People were able to enjoy time with their loved ones, friends, and perhaps new acquaintances.

Seeing an outreach table about HIV/AIDS in the middle of this cheerful atmosphere could seem slightly out of place, until you think of why it's there. Various attendees, some in committed relationships, others not, took advantage of the opportunity to come to the table and obtain free condoms, lubricants, and counseling from three health educators. Plastic rainbow bags filled with condoms and other safe sex materials were distributed to each attendee by the Erie County Department of Health. Even better, individuals were willing to learn about risks and risk reduction. Overall, I personally interacted with at least thirty people and provided them with one-on-one HIV/AIDS education. Hopefully, my educational efforts will remain fresh in their minds when their next sexual encounter arises.



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National News Briefs

by Bob

Spain Legalizes Gay Marriage; Canada Follows

Defying the Catholic Church and other conservative groups, the Spanish Parliament last month legalized gay marriage, making Spain the third nation in the world to do so.

Meanwhile, Canada became the fourth nation to make gay marriage legal. The Canadian House of Commons approved the measure in June and the Canadian Senate did the same in July.

The legalization of gay marriage in Spain is particularly significant because the country is predominantly Roman Catholic. But Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero noted that "Spain is now expanding opportunities for the happiness of our neighbors, our work colleagues, our friends, our relatives."

Despite street protests in Madrid and other cities, which were supported by the Catholic Church, polls in Spain show that 62 percent of Spaniards support the government's action while 30 percent oppose it.

In Canada, Prime Minister Paul Martin, himself a Catholic, applauded his government's efforts to legalize gay marriage.

"We are a nation of minorities," Martin said. "And in a nation of minorities, it is important that you don't cherry-pick rights." Martin went on to say that despite anyone's personal beliefs, all Canadians should be given the same rights to marriage.

Gay marriage is also legal in Belgium and The Netherlands.

Domestic Partnership Law Stands in California

The California Supreme Court has declined to hear a lawsuit over the state's domestic partnership law which grants same sex couples many of the same rights as married couples. By declining to hear the case, the court has let the law stand.

California's domestic partnership law took effect Jan. 1. The court's ruling has no impact on the voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage in California, although there are pending legal challenges to that vote.

In addition, some California lawmakers are considering reviving the bill that would permit same-sex marriage in the state. A similar bill was defeated in the state Assembly earlier this year.

Court Hears Challenge to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

A federal court in Boston has heard arguments in a legal challenge to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the first such challenge since the U.S. Supreme Court's 2003 gay rights decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

Cook v. Rumsfeld, which was filed in December by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), represents 12 gay and lesbian military personnel who were discharged because of their sexual orientation. As expected, the federal government has asked the court to dismiss the case.

But the SLDN brief noted that the government's argument uses old case law that predated the *Lawrence* ruling. All of the previous "don't ask, don't tell" federal court decisions used the 1986 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Bowers v. Hardwick* to uphold the military's ban on homosexual conduct. But the *Bowers* ruling, which allowed states to criminalize homosexual conduct, was expressly reversed by the *Lawrence* ruling in 2003.

The SLDN is asking the court to declare "don't ask, don't tell" regulations unconstitutional as a whole, and to declare them unconstitutional as applied to each of the 12 plaintiffs. Further, the suit asks the court to order the U.S. military to no longer enforce any aspect of "don't ask, don't tell," and to reinstate the plaintiffs at their previous rank and pay scale.

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National News

Oregon Senate Approves Civil Union Bill

By a vote of 19-10, the Oregon Senate passed legislation to allow same-sex civil unions. Senate Bill 1000 would not only create civil unions, but also prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, public accommodations and public services.

If the bill becomes law, Oregon would become the third state to allow civil unions. Vermont already has civil unions, and Connecticut will begin offering them later this year.

Oregon's Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski has pledged his support for the bill and said he would sign it if it reached his desk.

While the bill passed in the Democratic-controlled Senate, it is expected to face an uphill battle in the state's House of Representatives, which is controlled by Republicans.

Church Backs Gay Marriage Rights

The United Church of Christ has become the largest Christian denomination to endorse full civil and religious marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Some 80 percent of the members of the church's General Synod voted to approve the marriage resolution during its national meeting in Atlanta. The resolution says, "The United Church of Christ affirms equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender and declares that the State should not interfere with couples, regardless of gender, who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of legally recognized marriage."

The Rev. Andrew Young, former Mayor of Atlanta and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, was one of the people who endorsed the resolution, noting that the UCC has a tradition of activism, becoming the first denomination to ordain a black pastor (1785) and a woman (1853).

"What seemed controversial back then seems so automatic today," he said. "We wonder why it was a struggle at all."

The 1.3 million-member UCC has a long history of supporting LGBT rights. In 1972, church members

ordained their first openly gay minister and established a gay caucus.

Ex-Cop Sentenced for Killing Gay Student

A former policeman in Columbia, MO, has been sentenced to life in prison for killing a gay college student with whom he was having an affair.

Steven Rios, a 28-year-old married father, also received an additional 10 years for armed criminal action for slashing the throat of his victim, Jesse Valencia.

Valencia, 23, was found dead in June 2004. Prosecutors claimed that Rios killed the University of Missouri student because Valencia threatened to reveal their affair to the police chief.

Rios first met Valencia in April 2004, when he arrested the student while investigating a loud party. The ex-cop testified that his affair with Valencia began that same night.

Pride Picnic 2005 Gallery



Chris, Jake, and Nick playing Bocce.

Drawing a Line in the Sand

by Caillean McMahon
Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance

This well may be the least popular editorial that I have ever written.

Having said that, having warned the “gentle reader” that I am about to drop a match onto the gasoline of well-defended complacency, it is time to begin.

Today’s news carried a piece on the outing of Senator Rick Santorum’s aide as gay. It is not a stunning revelation in and of itself, for we have been treated to other gays serving our enemies in the past, going as far as to mastermind gay bashing and smear campaigns, but this one was unique in that a justification was offered.

Yes, I said “our enemies.” People who block, derail or attack our pursuit of the same rights that straights have such as not being evicted because of the gender of your lover, not losing your job arbitrarily because of who you sleep with or which sex you find attractive, tax credits, or the right to legally solemnize your relationship and provide protections

and benefits for your partner are most certainly not our friends.

People who block hate crimes legislation on the grounds that it is a special right or protection at a time that the percentage of such crimes that are aimed at us approaches an all time high are engaging in a dishonest game of chess with our lives. We would not need such legislation if we were simply treated like everyone else. Again, they are not our friends.

I do not accept the argument that “our opponents” are acting upon their beliefs or consciences as justification for their actions. All of history has shown that the same specious platitudes were used for the persecution of each minority in sequence. Every time, every single time that it occurred in history it was proven to be morally wrong.

A person who questions any aspect of their own actions would have to at least pause at that fact of human civilization and wonder if that is the case now, that denying us equality is morally wrong.

Instead, those who seek to keep us in thrall as second or third class citizens summon crumbling theological positions to insist that this minority, the gay community, is somehow different. The “different” and therefore unworthy weapon was used against every minority before us as well as they came to the front of the room, hungry for justice, to ask whatever authority oppressed them “please Sir, I want more” as Oliver Twist asked Dickens’s Mr. Bumble while he was a prisoner in the workhouse.

So, we the gay community do have enemies.

Our enemies identify themselves clearly by the positions that they take against us.

Rick Santorum, US Senator from Pennsylvania, is our enemy.

His Chief of Staff told reporters that “Senator Santorum is a man of principle, he is a man who sticks up for what he believes in, I strongly do support Senator Santorum.”

I read the words twice and sat back in my chair to reflect.

Senator Santorum is a man of principle. His principles are bad.

He supports an amendment to bar same-sex marriage.

He opposes gays and lesbians in the military.



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He has said that we “undermine the basic tenets of our society and the family.”

He opposed the overturning of sodomy laws, saying a right to privacy doesn't exist.

He misquotes, twists words and overtly deceives when he discusses our aspirations and ambitions.

The argument that “other issues” lead gays and lesbians to support the Pennsylvania Senator and others like him doesn't impress me. It appalls me.

What other issues take precedence over human rights? Do they truly believe that currying favour with the enemy will improve their position?

Yes, I did say “currying favour with the enemy.” Strong words, I agree, but we are being undone by our reluctance to speak them. By not doing so we implicitly validate not only the actions of those of our number who aid in our oppression, but we also lend credence to the stature of a leader who engages in policies that are inherently and irrefutably morally wrong as judged by past history.

Having taken the plunge, “gentle reader”, let us go a bit further together.

Every gay who supports the election of a figure opposed to us, every one who raises or donates funds to those who campaign on a platform of oppressing us, every one who lends their skills to engage in the underhanded deviousness used to terrify the public with distortions, half truths and lies about us is akin to Beecher Stowe's “Uncle Tom” or to the Jewish kapos who enforced Nazi policy on the Jewish victims in the Warsaw ghetto. Another truth of human history is that groveling for crumbs at the table of the authority whose boot is fixed firmly upon your neck has never in the end succeeded. It will not succeed now .

The last major set of elections in this country was in the end about us and our aspirations. It was made a referendum on us by our opponents, our enemies who gloried in the chance to do so. Twenty seven percent of our number put their own future, their own safety and their own job and housing security aside to vote against themselves and against us.

A conservative acquaintance once said to me “we are not all like Alan Keyes.” Well, if you support men like Senator Santorum, yes, you are. If you serve or help to fund politicians who oppose our rights, yes you are.

You may justify it in your own mind howsoever that you chose. In doing these things, in lending time,

money, skill, or intellect to the enemies of our rights you are, actively or passively, overtly or covertly, like Alan Keyes or Rick Santorum.

I know that I am drawing a line in the sand. I know that I am saying to the collaborators that they are doing things that are morally objectionable and inherently evil.

Yes, I said collaborators. Every time that a gay, lesbian or trans person is dismissed out of prejudice because our enemies voted against protections, the ink on the firing notice is on the hands of those of us who supported such men.

Every time that a gay, lesbian or trans person loses their housing because such rights have been denied to us, the responsibility for the cold of the streets and the terror of homelessness is in the hands of those amongst us for whom “other issues” were more important than human rights.

Every time that a gay, lesbian or trans person is raped, beaten or murdered because the assailant was inspired by hate speech from leaders, the blood of the victims is on the hands of those who supported the speakers with their skills, time and money.

“If the case I present seems hard and unpromising, it is because the evidence makes it so.” The words were spoken by Justice Jackson, I embrace them today as the closing to this editorial.

Pride Picnic 2005 Gallery



Tara and Heather.

Pride Picnic 2005 Gallery



PFLAG-Erie/Crawford president Maureen Koseff, flanked by husband Al Koseff (left) and Maureen's brother Henry Sullivan (right).

PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

PFLAG Fundraiser

Get ready to have a lot of fun at PFLAG's fundraiser VARIETY SHOW at TRANCE Dance Club (1607 Raspberry St.), Saturday, August 6th, 7 - 10 PM. We have terrific acts lined up: Miss Erie- 2005; Two Girls Alone; Jocelyn Porter Project; Bob Bearfield; Rowan: Temple of Bast; Buddy Dobson- "GlowSorcerer"; Ms. Lottie Hatfield. And, there will be others as well. If you don't come, you will miss a great evening.

Tickets are only \$10. You can pay at the door or pre-order: (Call 898-8341 or email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com). The money goes to PFLAG, and your ticket stub will be all the proof you will need to deduct it from your taxes. Groups of 10 can prepay and reserve a table for \$100.

We do want to make sure everyone realizes that the SHOW STARTS AT 7 PM, not at 8, as was announced earlier. It is important to try to be there by 7 PM. We promise a FABULOUS evening. See you at TRANCE.

Meeting Notes

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: Monday, August 8, from 7-9 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway (Rte 97). (Take exit 27 off of I-90, go north about a half mile. Church is on the left.) We also hold ad hoc support groups for parents of, or spouses of, GLBT people. For support, please call Maureen at (814)-898-8341, email us at pflagerie@eriegaynews.com, or write to P.O. Box 155, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

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at www.eriegaynews.com***

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler, Co-Editor

Many thanks to everyone who made the Pride Picnic such a success! It was a lot of work, but folks really pitched in. I am hoping that things go as well for the fall Pride Event that Dan Burdick is organizing on Saturday, October 15. You can email him at eriegaypride@yahoo.com or call (814) 602-0252. We are back to marching down State Street and holding the Rally in Perry Square. More details are on the front page. A nifty note: it looks like we will also have the return of the Dykes v. Drag Queens softball game the Sunday of that weekend. If you are interested in playing, can bring equipment, or just want to help out, call them at (814) 476-7703.

I am also hoping the PFLAG fundraiser on Saturday, August 6 goes well. PFLAG has done a lot of good over the years, both nationally and right here. I have been relatively active over the past 9 years with various incarnations of the local chapter. Okay, so this is also a shameless plug: I volunteered to teach English Country Dance for the event. When I was in my early 20's, it was one of my favorite things to do. (Okay, so I am an out-and-out nerd. Was this ever in question?) Anywho, hope that folks turn out to support PFLAG on August 6 at Trance!

Nifty news about Adelphia carrying the gay cable channel LOGO. Now if we can only get Times Warner

to carry it here in the City of Erie. If you're up for it, just drop them a quick note asking for LOGO and send it to Time Warner Cable, 530 South Main St, Suite 1751, Akron OH 44311.

Pride Picnic 2005 Gallery



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2005 PRIDE Erie Picnic

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Erie Gay News

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