

February 2006



EGN

Erie Gay News



Gay Men's Chorus forms

Warm up those voices! The first rehearsal of the Erie Gay Men's Chorus is set for 8 - 9:30 PM on Monday, February 20 at the Rehearsal Hall of Memorial Auditorium on the Edinboro University main campus. The Spring Concert is planned for Monday, May 15 at 8 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. You don't need to be ready for American Idol, Broadway, or the Met – just a willingness to sing and have a good time. The group is open to all gay men, bisexual men, transgender men, and gay-friendly straight men. Men of all ages are welcome! So, if you over 18 or in your 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, or 100s, come on out to the first rehearsal. The direc-

tor is Justin Turpin, 24, who graduated with a music education degree from Edinboro University this December. Justin plans to pursue a graduate degree in conducting and has conducted various bands and choruses in the area. For more information, please contact Dr. Daniel Burdick at (814) 602.0252 or dburdick@edinboro.edu.

—*from Dan Burdick*

Erie County HRC is back with new director

The Erie County Human Relations Commission is back in operation.

On January 17, the commission's new director, Joseph Aguglia, was introduced at the Erie County Courthouse. Mark DiVecchio, newly-elected County Executive, introduced Aguglia.

Since the HRC was closed down under the Schenker administration nearly three years ago, discrimination complaints have been sent to offices in Pittsburgh. Aguglia said that the HRC will once again be handling discrimination cases locally. He also stated that he will seek to bring back to Erie those unresolved cases presently being handled in Pittsburgh.

"We want to make people aware they don't have to call the Pittsburgh office," he said. "They can call the Erie office."

The Human Relations Commission will now be located at the Renaissance Center, 1001 State Street, Room 322. The Telephone number is 451-7065,

The commission investigates and enforces the county's antidiscrimination ordinance. That ordinance prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, and sexual orientation, related to employment, housing, and public accommodations.

—*Information from Erie Times-News*



Musician Bob Bearfield performs at Moonsense on February 4 and returns March 14.

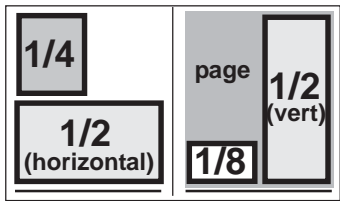
More Community News on page 4!

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On the cover: Bob Bearfield at the 2005 pride March/Rally. Photo by Deb Spilko

EGN Ad Rates



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

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



Erie Gay News
1115 West 7th St.
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info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

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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Thank You:

To James von Loewe, Lynne Rhodes and Gary Snyder for folding; Gary Snyder, James von Loewe, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King, Lois, Tammy Arnold, Brian How, & Dave S for distribution. Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. Bob for proofreading. Thanks! If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

LOVE HURTS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, February 10th 11 PM
Broken Hearts, Love Hurts Drag Show

SATURDAY, February 11th
Love Hurts Party
Wear your Reddest Red for Prizes!

SUNDAY, February 12th 9 PM
Love's Revenge Movie Night

St. Patrick's
Day!

Wearing of the Green
Weekend
Come Get Your Irish Up!
Green Beer
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Weekend of the 24th

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Community News

Fall Pride Planning Committee

We had about 14 people attend the January meeting for Fall Pride and set up a number of subcommittees. We have tentatively secured Perry Square for Saturday, September 30. We will need a lot of support to cover the costs and labor of putting on this event.

Please note that the planning committee for the Fall Pride Weekend meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2 PM at Panera's in the Yorktown Plaza, 2501 W 12th St, Erie PA. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 12 at 2 PM.

If you would like to be on the email list for the planning committee, you can sign up at http://www.eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/event_eriegaynews.com. You may also contact Dan Burdick at (814) 602-0252 or eriegaypride@yahoo.com or Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

—by Mike Mahler

Lambda Car Club new local chapter

Allegheny Region, Lambda Car Club International (LCCI): LCCI is the largest gay antique car club in the world with regions throughout the US and Canada. The Allegheny Region serves western PA and eastern Ohio and holds a variety of social and antique car-related activities throughout the year. Membership is open to any GLBT person interested in antique cars/trucks/vehicles and their preservation. You do not have to own an antique vehicle to be a member. For information, contact Bob at (814)456-9643, email LCCAllegheny@yahoo.com or visit the LCCI web site at www.lambdacarclub.com.

—from Bob

Moonsense Schedule:

In February we will be running awesome hearty dinner specials

Every Saturday Night

02/04 Matt Texter and Bob Bearfield Blues: Folk & Country meets modern pop hits acoustic and totally mellow.

02/11 Kev Rowe: Lead Guitarist of "Big Leg Emma" Acoustic Vocalist, very talented.

02/18 Eden Light: Spiritual Folk...If you like God, you'll like them.

02/25 Brown Eyed Susan's: Traveled all over the country, sounds like "Blonde"

Mondays:

Carrie Sample Every Monday 5:30 - 6:30 February 6, 13, 20, 27. First and third Monday of the Month

02/6 & 02/20 7-9 Spa Night. Facials, Nails...and Psychics

Tuesdays: 5:30-6:30 Acoustic Guitar 7, 14, 21, 28

Wednesdays: 5:30-6:30 Jazz Jazz 1, 8, 15, 22

Thursdays: Karaoke 7-10 PM 3, 10, 17, 24

Fridays: open mic 8-11 6, 13, 20, 27

Moonsense is at 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. www.moonsense.net/

—Submitted by Jo Hyatt

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www.eriegaynews.com

Community News

Armed robber caught

Andrew Flores, Jr., the man who robbed three women at gunpoint at the Trance Dance Club on December 4, was caught on January 5.

One of the victims reportedly was sitting at the Zone Dance Club on January 5, when a familiar-looking man became friendly and started talking to her. She recognized him as the man who had committed the armed robbery against her and her two companions.

The woman, who prefers to remain anonymous, continued to speak with the man while employees at the Zone called the Erie police. The woman was still talking to Flores when police Patrolmen Chuck Fuhrman and Michael Suchy arrived at the club.

Flores was charged with carrying a gun without a license, robbery, criminal attempt at robbery, theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property, simple assault, terroristic threats, and possessing an instrument of crime.

Police are also looking for a possible connection to an armed robbery outside Trance Dance Club that took place in October.

—information from *Erie Times-News*

Tret Fure returns

Tret Fure, singer-songwriter, returns to Erie April 23 for a Sunday afternoon performance at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 Perry Highway. Concert begins at 4 PM. Tickets are available at the church, at Aromas Coffeehouse, 2174 West 8th Street in Erie, and on line at www.tomboygirl.com.

Tickets for Tret Fure's concert are \$15.

—by *Kate Hentz*

Obituary

Ryan Anthony Showers

Ryan Anthony Showers, 35, died Tuesday, December 6, in Edinboro Manor, Edinboro, PA.

He was born September 25, 1970, the son of the late Bonnie Showers Clulow and Andrew C. Affrica Jr. of Clarion.

Throughout his life, Ryan accomplished many goals and made many friends.

He graduated from Toni and Guy Hair-dressing Academy in 2003. He was employed as a hairdresser in the Erie and Meadville areas. In addition to being a hairdresser, he also worked part time at the Village Supper Club. Ryan was a member of the board for the Northwest AIDS Alliance.

He will be remembered for his kind words that he said to all. He was a great friend to all that he knew and will be missed by everyone.

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Calendar

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

Jan 25 - "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>.

Jan 25 - Equality PA (Southwest Region) meets 7 PM. Support group to empower and support our GLBTQ community, Ginger Hill UU Congregation, 174 S Main Street, Slippery Rock. Contact: Reid. Phone: (724) 735-4407. Email: butlerdiversity@yahoo.com.

Jan 28 - "Slumber Party" at Trance Dance Club
1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "Cum in your favorite Jammies!" Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

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

Feb 3 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA) Lyndora Firehall, 114 Whitestown Road, Butler, PA. "We supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just BYOB" vertigov@aol.com. www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

Feb 4 - Bob Bearfield at Moonsense Cafe 5442 Peach St, Erie. 9:30 - 11 PM.

Feb 4 - Zone's 8th Birthday Party Celebration! at Zone Dance Club. 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Come join us as we Celebrate our 8th *great* year in business and our *first* year at the *new* location! We'll be hosting a *big* Birthday Blow-Out with a *big* Birthday Bash! Thank You!... for 8 great years!...getting *bigger* and *better* just for *you!* Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Feb 5 - "End-ZONE Super Bowl Party" at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Watch the game with us on our new BIG Screen TV and cheer your favorite team to Victory! The kitchen is open all night with specials on all your favorite munchies and 2 for 1 wings. Super Bowl 40—a night of Food, Fun,
(continued on page 8)

Financial and Legal Issues Concerning the Gay and Lesbian Community



You are cordially invited to a private workshop featuring:

Colleen Burbules Financial Advisor, Wachovia Securities
Nadia A. Havard, Esq. Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall & Sennett, PC
Saturday, February 11th at 11:30 a.m. Ruby Tuesday's – Millcreek Mall
RSVP to Colleen at 814- 453-5021 or by email colleen.burbules@wachoviasec.com
Seating is Limited.

Topics of Discussion will include:

- *Help Ensure that Your Assets Will Pass to the People You Choose*
- *The Differences Between a 401(k) and an IRA*
- *Minimize Federal, Estate and Inheritance Taxes*
- *Strategies to help Prevent Court Challenges with your Assets*
- *What documents you must have to protect yourself and your partner*

Wachovia Securities is located at 100 State Street, Suite 100, Erie, PA, 16507.

Wachovia Securities does not render legal or tax advice.

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THURSDAY
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Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department
Erie Office
Outreach Services
814.451.6732

Corry Office
814.663.3891

Hispanic American
Council
814.455.0212

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

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

Calendar

Friends, and *Football*. Get into the End-ZONE and score a Touchdown!"

Feb 6 - Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) meets Unitarian-Universalist Parish House, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA. 7 PM - 9 PM. "We are a cross-denominational Christian group of/for LGBT people – encompassing spiritual nurture, discussion of LGBT issues, and mutual support. *All are welcome!*" Phone: (814) 724-1832. Email: bykota@eriegaynews.com.

Feb 10 - "Broadway The Zone Way" at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 10:30 PM. "Come join us for a night of high class entertainment. Celebrate an evening of Broadway presented by our talented house cast featuring our exclusive 'Diva Dudes.' Show stars at 10:30 PM, so come early for a good seat." Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Feb 10 - "Broken Hearts, Love Hurts" Drag Show at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 11 PM. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email:

lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Feb 11 - Menspace Potluck Dinner - '1950s Flash-back' At Jeff and Gary's, 1146 Brown Avenue, Erie, PA. "Join us for an evening of remembering the glory day in the art deco fun of the 1950s. That's right, it's Rat Pack time at the cool cats club 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 a swank time. Vegas was starting to hit its stride while our boys Dean, Frank and Sammy crooned their way into the hearts of many. Just think about the bachelor days of Rock Hudson and that beard of his, Doris. And don't forget that Valentine's Day is coming up soon, so feel free to show off some 'red' for this chillin' affair." Any questions, feel free to contact Gary at gar_bear73@hotmail.com Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Feb 11 - "Love Hurts" Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Wear your Reddest Red for Prizes! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Feb 11 - "Red Hot Dance Party" at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Cupid is lighting the flames of passion at the Zone. Wear red or come in costume because we are going to *heat* things up with the Original Valentine's Costume Contest... dress as a Horny Devil, Leather Cupid, Flaming Fireman, Drag Queen of Hearts, Diva Dominatrix... or wear Sexy Lingerie or fun Valentines Boxers... just wear *red!*!! Follow the Flames into the Zone for a Sexy night of fun! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Feb 12 - (This is tentatively scheduled!) Drenched Fur Planning Committee meets Two Friends Italian Market, 25 E 10th St, Erie, PA 1 PM. Planning for Drenched Fur weekend on March 24-26. Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 384-0463. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to <http://www.drenchedfur.com>.

Feb 12 - "Love's Sweet Revenge" Movie Night at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email:

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Calendar

lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Feb 13 - Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD) meets 218 E 11th St, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Cindy Purvis. Phone: (814) 453-4113. Email: cindypurvis@velocity.net. Browse to www.erielead.org

Feb 13 - PFLAG meets Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark H pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Phone: John at (814) 454-1392.

Feb 13 - "College ID Night: Speed Dating Trance Style" 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>.

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "2 for 1 Drinks for Whole Hearts. Couples get one heart at the door. Singles get a half a heart at the door when they find matching heart, 2 for 1 drinks for that couple." Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Feb 14 - Hospice Support group for those dealing with loss Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Also meets Feb 16 at 10 AM. (814) 456-6689. hospice@velocity.net.

Feb 15 - "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>.

Feb 15 - Deadline for March 2006 edition of Erie Gay News EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 19 - Planning meeting for Fall Pride Event (Panera's at Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie, PA) 2 PM. Meeting to plan for Erie's Fall Pride event. The event will be held on September 30. Contact: Dan Burdick. Phone: (814) 602-0252. Email: eriegaypride@yahoo.com. Browse to http://eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/event_eriegaynews.com.

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Feb 25 - "Mardi Gras Party- Zone Style" at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Follow the
(continued on page 10)

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Calendar

parade from Bourbon St. to the Zone for Erie's biggest Gay Mardi Gras Party! Join your friends for a night of debauchery and fun as we celebrate Mardi Gras the best we can. Drink specials, jell-o shots and shooters, beads, glow-sticks and fun... Girls and Guys get wild! Show us some Skin, we'll give you some beads.. (No Nudity) It's Big Easy Party!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

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9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Mar 12 - Pride Picnic meeting (Brian and Larry's, Erie, PA) 2 PM. Setting up for the 14th Annual Pride Picnic, which will be held on Saturday, June 10 at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle. Contact Michael for the meeting location. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>.

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Mar 15 - Deadline for April 2006 edition of Erie Gay News EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com.

Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Follow the Gay Rainbow into the Zone for Part 1 of our 2 day St. Patrick's Day Party. Wear *green*, have some green beer or dance an Irish jig." Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Mar 18 - Performance: Bob Bearfield at Moonsense Cafe 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 8 PM - 11 PM. Local singer/songwriter Bob Bearfield will be appearing at Moonsense Cafe. Bob performs original music as well as an eclectic mix of covers by such artists as Fleetwood Mac, U2, Green Day and the Indigo Girls. Ph: (814) 868-1783. Email: bob@bobbearfield.com. Web: www.bobbearfield.com.

Mar 18 - O'Zone Dance Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Come get lucky— Join your friends for some four-leaf fun at Part 2 of our 2 day



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Deadline is the 15th of the month.

Calendar

St. Patrick's Party. Wear green! Catch the leprechaun and he might give you his pot of gold. Food, Friends Prizes, Dancing, and Fun for everyone! Get into your Zone—the Gay rainbow ends here!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Web: www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Mar 20 - Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) meets Unitarian-Universalist Parish House, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA. 7 - 9 PM. Phone: (814) 724-1832. Email: bykota@eriegaynews.com.

Mar 22 - Equality PA (Southwest Region) meets Ginger Hill UU Congregation, 174 S Main St, Slippery Rock, PA. 7 PM. Reid at (724) 735-4407 butlerdiversity@yahoo.com.

Mar 22 - Open Circle for Ostara/Vernal Equinox Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 10 PM. "Held by GLBT-Friendly Covenant of Brighidshaven. Doors typically open at 7 PM, ritual typically at 7:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck feast. Please note that a \$3 donation is requested to help defray the cost of renting the space." Any questions? Feel free to contact Jeremy by email at prosperotter@yahoo.com Browse to <http://www.u-n-c-l-e.org>.

Mar 24 - 26 - Drenched Fur Weekend (Erie, PA) 2nd Annual Bear event. Various venues. Contact: Gary. Phone: (814) 384-0463. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to <http://www.drenchedfur.com>.

Mar 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>.

Websites/email lists for area performers

Bob Bearfield www.bobbearfield.com

Carrie Sample www.rockerie.com/thescene/bands/103

Jocelyn Porter Project
www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

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

On stage

Selected area cultural events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences.

thru February 25 - "Vagina Monologues" at the Roadhouse directed by Nicole Stewart Hand, with Erica Heilmann as narrator and 11 monologists. Featured in the Roadhouse production are Erica Heilmann as the narrator and 11 monologists -- Linda Gamble, Sue Ellen Wojciechowski, Bobbi Kocher, Karen Schelinski, Amy G. Fuchs, Tracey Lucas, Christine Volk, Cathi "GG" Mitchell, Cheryl Jong, Nicole Stewart Hand, and Elizabeth Crandell. Playing Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM through Feb. 25 at the Roadhouse Theatre, 145 W. 11th St. For tickets, call the box office, 456-5656.

Feb 1-19 - Buddies in Bad Times Theatre "28 Rhubarb! Festival of New Canadian Theatre" 12 Alexander, Toronto ON. "Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is a Canadian theatre company dedicated to the promotion of gay, lesbian and queer theatrical expression." www.buddiesinbadtimestheatre.com

Feb 7-12 - "Dame Edna: Back with a Vengeance" Shea's Performing Arts Center, Buffalo NY. <http://www.sheas.org/>

Feb 18 - "Megan Mullally and the Supreme Music Program" University of Buffalo Center for the Arts www.ubcfa.org/

Mar 2 - Toshi Reagon - Club Cafe, Pittsburgh (412) 431-4950 www.clubcafelive.com/

Mar 7 - Janis Ian Club Cafe,, Pittsburgh (412) 431-4950 www.clubcafelive.com/

Mar 7 - Jane Siberry at Beachland Ballroom & Tavern (Cleveland) (216) 383-1124 www.beachlandballroom.com/

Mar 8 - Jane Siberry at Club Cafe (Pittsburgh) <http://www.clubcafelive.com/>

Mar 17 - Queen + Paul Rogers HSBC Arena, Buffalo NY. <http://www.hsbcarena.com/>

Mar 20 - Queen + Paul Rogers Mellon Arena, Pittsburgh PA. <http://www.mellonarena.com/>

Mar 21 - Queen + Paul Rogers Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland OH 216-241-2121

Apr 26 - "Rent" Warner Theatre. Erie Broadway Series. Charge tickets (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070 or purchase at the Erie Civic Center Box Office, 809 French St. all Ticketmaster outlets or online at www.ticketmaster.com \$49.50, \$39.50, \$29.50 www.erieevents.com/warner.html

National Condom Day - February 14

by Patty Puline
Erie County Dept of Health

Dear Readers:

February is here, and you know what that means, don't you? Valentine's Day!

It is also National Condom Day – February 14th. Oh yes, and even though some people will not be with that *certain someone* on Valentine's Day, most people will not want to be alone on that day. So what happens? People hook up seeking romance and passion and things may progress to unprotected sexual activity. Before engaging in sexual activity, make a decision to protect yourself against STD (sexually transmitted diseases)

Syphilis and gonorrhea do not sound romantic, HIV, herpes and warts may not have much to do with passion, but on a day when love is foremost in everyone's mind, people need to think about the consequences of having unprotected sex.

Today, as many as 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS and more than 20 million

people have died. One in four adults will have an STD this year. Chlamydia is the most common bacterial infection among STDs, and often goes unnoticed because of the mild signs and symptoms. Herpes, HIV, and genital warts are the "love bugs" of all viral STDs; because they will always love you back. Always. Because they are viruses, they never go away. Never, and just when you think you have them under control? They are back!

Take responsibility for sexual health by *always* using condoms and having regular sexual health checks. The HIV and STD clinic at the Erie County Dept of Health is free and confidential. The clinic hours and information can be found on our website: www.ecdh.org, or in our ad on page 7 of this issue of *Erie Gay News*.

The Erie County Department of Health is reminding people on National Condom Day to buy flowers, buy candy and buy condoms! Think you know about STD? Take this quick STD quiz to find out just how much you really know (or don't know) about STD.

STD Jeopardy

Name the disease by the description given in each statement.

1. Intense itching, pinhead blood spots on underwear.
2. Three stages, chancre, rash, systemic.
3. RNA virus which almost always leads to opportunistic infections, (AIDS).
4. Painful urination, greenish-yellow discharge.
5. White patches often found in the mouth, cottage cheese like pockets of infection.

Answers:

1. Crabs 2. Syphilis 3. HIV 4. gonorrhea 5. candidiasis)

To learn more about HIV education programs, please contact:
Patty Puline, HIV/AIDS Education & Training
Erie County Dept of Health
451-6543
ppuline@ecdh.org



National News Briefs

by Bob

NYC Council Elects Gay Leader

The New York City Council made history this month by electing the first woman and first openly gay person to the position of City Council Speaker, often regarded as the second-most powerful seat in city government.

Christine Quinn, a Democrat, was elected by a 50-0 vote of the City Council. As Council Speaker, Quinn will have a great deal of influence over city budget matters and work frequently with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Following her election to the Speaker post, Quinn expressed her thanks to her father and her partner, Kim Catullo, both of whom were in the audience.

“Let me say that I am incredibly proud that in the most diverse city in the world, diversity is seen as a strength and not an impediment,” Quinn said.

Quinn is among some 350 openly gay politicians currently serving in all levels of government in the United States, according to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Music Company Forms Gay Label

Sony Music and the founder of gay cable network *Logo* have teamed up to form a record label aimed at developing gay, lesbian and transgender recording artists.

The *Music With a Twist* label plans to use talent scouts nationwide to find emerging artists who are popular in the gay community and have the potential for mass appeal.

“It’s a home that says to artists, ‘We not only are OK with who you are, but we embrace that as part of your identity,’” said Matt Farber, president of Wilderness Media & Entertainment and founder of *Logo*.

Farber compared the concept of a record label focusing on gay artists to that of urban labels formed to nurture rap or hip-hop acts. *Twist* plans to sign artists covering a variety of musical genres and also release compilations with songs by established artists.

Sony Music has also agreed to become a charter sponsor of a syndicated radio show, also dubbed *Twist*. The show was launched this month in several markets and online.

Movie Critic Stirs Controversy

Most film critics have agreed that *Brokeback Mountain* is one of the year’s best films. Most, that is, except veteran *Todayshow* critic Gene Shalit.

Shalit has been criticized by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation for his negative review of the film in which he referred to Jake Gyllenhaal’s character, Jack, as a “sexual predator” who “tracks Ennis down and coaxes him into sporadic trysts.”

“Shalit’s bizarre characterization of Jack as a ‘predator’ and Ennis (Heath Ledger) as a victim reflects a fundamental lack of understanding about the central relationship in the film and about gay relationships in general,” GLAAD said in a statement. “It seems highly doubtful that Shalit would similarly claim that *Titanic’s* Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) was a ‘sexual predator’ because he was pursuing a romantic relationship with Rose (Kate Winslet).”

While Shalit commended Ledger’s performance in *Brokeback*, he concluded that Ang Lee’s much-nominated film was “wildly over praised, but not by me.”

“Shalit has every right as a film critic to criticize *Brokeback Mountain*,” GLAAD retorted. “But his baseless branding of Jack as a ‘sexual predator’ merely because he is romantically interested in someone of the same sex is defamatory, ignorant and irresponsible.”

GLAAD stated that its representatives had spoken with a *Todayshow* producer, who promised to bring their concerns to Shalit’s attention. Shalit later issued a statement expressing regret over the choice of words he used in his broadcast.

“I certainly had no intention of casting aspersions on anyone in the gay community or on the community itself. I regret any emotional hurt that may have resulted from my review of *‘Brokeback Mountain’*,” Shalit said.

Physician and author Peter Shalit, the film critic’s gay son, defended his father in a letter to GLAAD.

“He may have had an unpopular opinion of a movie that is important to the gay community, but he defamed no one, and he is not a homophobe,” Peter Shalit wrote.

(continued next page)

National News

Republicans Help Fund Anti-Gay Measure

The group trying to put a same-sex marriage ban on the Florida election ballot in 2006 is being bankrolled by the state Republican Party, according to an investigative report by the *St. Petersburg Times*.

According to the newspaper, state campaign finance records show that \$193,000 has been raised by Florida4marriage.org — \$150,000 of it from a single donation from the Florida Republican Party. The paper described the contribution as surprising, since Republican Gov. Jeb Bush has called the amendment unnecessary because state law already bars same-sex marriage.

“Gov. Bush was not aware of the contribution,” Alia Faraj, a Bush spokeswoman, told the paper. “The party has a right to participate in the process and support initiatives that reflect their principles.”

The move appears to be an effort on the part of the Florida GOP to boost conservative voter turn-

out in the 2006 general election when Florida will be electing a new governor. State GOP chairman Andy Palmer told the *Times* that similar measures in battleground states in 2004 energized voter turnout among religious conservatives.

“We see it as a desperate attempt by a gubernatorial candidate who is behind in the polls and has missed every mark it has set for itself,” said Brian Winfield, communications director for Equality Florida.

GOP gubernatorial candidate Tom Gallagher, the state’s chief financial officer, has helped organize media events in an attempt to create momentum for the ballot language, Winfield claimed.

Florida4Marriage chairman John Stemberger said his organization has collected at least 250,000 signatures in the drive to get the marriage question on the ballot. The group needs 600,000 signatures by Feb. 1 to qualify.



Jon Bostjancic is our newest case manager. He’s been in the field of Social Work for the last 13 years. Jon says that he looks forward to continuing Jeff Grego’s spirit and commitment as an advocate and voice for the HIV community.

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

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Hágase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

Stop Santorum

by Deb Spilko

For a short while there, it looked like US Senator Rick Santorum was trying to tone down his image as a religious extremist. When President Bush's popularity plummeted, Santorum began to distance himself from his old "traditional moral values" friend. And although, in the past, he has supported the anti-evolution concept of "intelligent design," Santorum has since said it shouldn't be taught in science classes. He resigned from the advisory board of the Thomas More Law Center, the conservative legal group that represented the Dover, PA school board that made intelligent design part of the curriculum.

If anyone thought Rick Santorum was trying to become more moderate, they only needed to look to his participation in the Justice Sunday III event on January 8, 2006. Santorum was a featured speaker at that event, along with Jerry Falwell, James Dobson, and other "culture warriors" of the religious right.

Justice Sunday III was an event intended to show support for the nomination of Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. Alito's extreme and partisan views on issues—especially with regard to issues like reproductive rights, civil liberties, and civil rights—has raised serious concerns about his ability to serve on the highest court in the land. A recurring theme of Justice Sunday III was the fabricated charge that there is now a "war on Christians" that is being conducted by "secular" members of society.

Santorum's remarks stayed within the focus of the gathering. What is more important, for the purposes of this column, is to take a look at some of the other major people involved with the event. These are some of the people with whom Rick Santorum shares a mission and a set of beliefs.

The main force behind Justice Sunday III was **Tony Perkins**, president of the conservative evangelical Family Research Council, a spinoff of James Dobson's Focus on the Family organization. Perkins also has a white supremacist past, addressing the racist Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC) in 2001. In 1996, he paid international white supremacist and former KKK Grand Wizard **David Duke** \$82,500 for his mailing list (at the time, Perkins campaign manager for a right-wing Republican candidate for US Senate in Louisiana). A pro-tolerance organization noted this about Perkins (and others): "1981 ... The Council

for National Policy, a highly secretive club of America's most powerful far-right religious activists, begins meeting quarterly at undisclosed locations. Among the members will be R.J. Rushdoony, who calls for death penalty for homosexuals, and anti-gay crusaders James Dobson, Beverly and Tim LaHaye, Jerry Falwell, Tony Perkins and Phyllis Schlafly. George W. Bush will meet with the Council during his first campaign for president." (From Southern Poverty Law Center, "Thirty Years War").

Jerry Falwell was one of the featured speakers. For most gay people, Falwell's hateful remarks have made his name synonymous with fundamentalist homophobia (it was Falwell who—early on in the AIDS epidemic—popularized the idea that AIDS was "God's punishment"). For a little reminder of how hateful and how far to the right Falwell really is, here are some of his remarks immediately following the attacks on September 11, 2001: "The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked. And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that

(continued on next page)



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Stop Santorum

(continued from previous page)

the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America, I point the finger in their face and say: you helped this happen." That statement was made when Falwell was on the 700 Club, the program hosted by another proponent of religious hatred, Pat Robertson. And this was the sort of person that our US Senator, Rick Santorum, shared a stage and a mission with, on January 8.

Another featured speaker at Justice Sunday III was **James Dobson**, of Focus on the Family. Dobson was the fellow who loudly alerted the nation to at he fact that cartoon character SpongeBob Square Pants had left his pineapple home under the sea to become an unwitting participant in promoting the homosexual agenda. Dobson is a very strong opponent of the ef-

forts to legalize same-sex marriage, comparing it with terrorism and war. In his book, *Marriage Under Fire: Why We Must Win This Battle*, he writes "Like Adolf Hitler, who overran his European neighbors, those who favor homosexual marriage are determined to make it legal, regardless of the democratic processes that stand in the way." And this: "[t]here is no issue today that is more significant to our culture than the defense of the family. Not even the war on terror eclipses it."

Alveda King was another featured speaker. A niece of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., she has broken from her uncle's message of tolerance and inclusion, frequenting religious right gatherings and using the family name to validate the refusal to grant civil rights to GLBT persons. On her website, she states, "So we have established that same-sex marriage is not a civil right because, simply, homosexuality is not a civil right."

These, then, are some of the people with whom Santorum has made a common cause. They tell us much about who the Real Rick Santorum is, what he believes, and what we can expect from another term of office.

This column will run every month until the November 2006 election. For updates on local and area activities related to defeating Santorum, subscribe to the GLBT Vote List, by visiting www.eriegaynews.com

For more information on Rick Santorum, visit **Stop Santorum Now** at <http://www.stopsantorumnow.org/> For more on Justice Sunday III and the people who participated in it, visit <http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/> You can also find good background articles at Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

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PA antigay marriage bill

by Caillean Maureen McMahon

The Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment, which not only blocks same sex marriage but may well have impact on other measures that we take to protect our partners, now has 88 cosponsors and soon will go to the floor. It needs 102 voted to pass in the House. Passage in the Senate is pretty much assured.

For the next two years, we will have a constant struggle to defeat this, since it requires a second passage by the Assembly after the next statewide elections before it is submitted to the public. It is time to make a very public stand against any and all antigay measures but more importantly to put a human and positive image forward of the GLBT community.

Locally, we need to develop strategies to win the "hearts and minds" of the straight public. Some things could include gay and lesbian public services, such as clean ups, fundraisers for the Erie community as a whole to show the GLBT family as a valued resource in the region. Such events would have placards posted protesting discrimination against us. We would need to begin to be a presence at any and all community events, reminding the public of our existence, our commonality with the straight community and take pains to nurture alliances with other groups.

This is going to be a long difficult haul, but we can and must win. No one can stand aside expecting others to carry the burden. Every one of us is vital to the effort.

*Want to stay on top of
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Michael Dithers

I hope that everyone had a nice holiday season! In an amusing, if not exactly unsurprising turn of events, I ended up spending the first day on vacation from my job as a computer programmer setting up the web site www.drenchedfur.com for the Bear event that will be happening here on March 24-26. Plans seem to be going along quite well, and we already have a few registrations, some from as far away as Tennessee! (Who knew?) I had a really good time at the event last year and am very much looking forward to it this year. A friend is going to work on making a map of part of the city with GLBT points of interest. Way cool as we can probably use it for other events. The next meeting for Drenched Fur planning will be Sunday, February 12 at 1 PM and should be at Two Friends Italian Market on E 10th St.

Also, the Pride March/Rally is going relatively well. We had our first meeting and we seem to already have the site secured and some details nailed down. Yay! Folks have been helping. I was really touched that one agency very quickly stepped up to help with insurance and will also be helping with a fundraiser.

I feel bad sometimes that it seems like the women in our community don't have a great social group like Menspace. I did hear from a lesbian friend that some women have been going to Trance on Sundays to see "The L Word" at 10 PM.

One of the women was kind enough to mention a friend she had known in high school who was now out and looking to make contact with the community, so I gave him a call and let him know about some of the upcoming activities. There is actually a fair amount that goes on. I also did the Gay Central thing the previous night when I bumped into a younger guy while out.

I had a funny encounter. I had the omnipresent photo of myself with my dog Hecate on

www.Ringo.com and I had a request from someone who wanted to share photos. A few days later, he instant messaged me and said that he had removed me as a contact after asking to be added because he thought I was straight. Really! How rude!!! I laughed and explained that I was arguably one of the most out gay folks in the county, so I don't get mistaken for being straight. My standard joke is that I would have to make random phone calls to Iowa. It turns out that he lives in Germany, so maybe I should just focus on Europe and figure that the New World is probably taken care of.

Very good news about the Erie County Human Relations Commission getting going again. I am SO glad that we don't have to deal with Rick Schenker and his absurd game playing any more. The man acted like a boogerhead in how he dealt with a vital government service. Kudos to our new County Executive and County Council for getting things back on track!

Some of us went to see *Brokeback Mountain* at the Cedar Lee Theatre early this month. It was one of the most haunting and beautiful movies I have seen in my life, and I was pretty much in tears constantly for the last 20 minutes. I don't believe that I have ever cried in a theatre before. Wow. We now have found out that the movie will be coming here to Erie on Friday, January 27 at Tinseltown. The Erie Times News even did a story about 'Brokeback Mountain destined for Erie.' My friend Paula mentioned wanting to see it with her husband John and myself. (Paula and John take newsletters to a distribution point each month - huggies to them!)

Anyway, several people were talking about going to see it en masse and maybe going out to eat afterward, so I sent out to the list that maybe whoever wants to come along should go to the first matinee showing on Sunday, January 29, and we'll go out to eat afterwards. Maybe we will even fill the theatre. I asked Paula if it was okay if I maybe brought a swarm along. So, contact me ASAP, and we will see who we get. It might be good to get tickets online.

Apparently the cast from the movie is also due to appear on Oprah at some point. I saw the preview clip online. At one point, Oprah asked about how Michelle Williams and Heath Ledger hooked up during the filming and Jake Gyllenhaal chimed in with "Well, he and I made out, and she got pregnant."



PFLAG News

PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties

by Mark H, President, PFLAG Erie & Crawford

Our Chapter is still working to setup a self-help Library with our resources and materials to be available for our members and for the general Erie-area community.

We are in search of either a donations to buy or a used donation of a locking, mobile bookstand-type or cabinet to house and store. Please contact John at (814) 454-1392, if you are able to assist or give some direction for our need.

We are in the early stages of our 2006 PFLAG Erie and Crawford Counties Fundraising Planning. Most recently, we began networking as a Chapter, with a local mental health nonprofit association for GLBT referrals, concerns and speakers. More to follow later on these.

We just received a resource from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. The information is from their brochure/flyer, and supplies legal information It does not give out legal advice and is not meant to take the place of a lawyer. The Center is a nonprofit agency that advocates equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in Pennsylvania through direct legal services, education and policy reform.

If a person feels or believes that they have been discriminated against by an employer under various forms:

“Have you been harassed on the job because of your sexual orientation or gender identity or expression?”

Has your employer refused to allow you to use the restroom that matches your self-identified gender? Have you been fired, demoted, or denied employment

opportunities because of your sexual orientation or gender identity or expression?

Have you or your partner been denied health or retirement benefits because you are unable to marry?”

CONTACT: The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, Legal Hotline, 1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 605, Philadelphia, PA 19107 Ph (215) 731-1447 X 15 or 1-866-LGBT-LAW, 866-542-8529.

Our meetings will continue throughout the winter months. When the weather conditions are severe, we may not meet. Our next meeting is Monday, February 13. PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties Chapter meets the second Monday of each month, from 7 PM - 8:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy (Route 97, go north from exit # 27 off of route 90).

Contact by email address is: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com; Mailing address: PO BOX 8914, Erie, PA 16505. Phone number (John) is: (814)-454-1392, feel free to leave a message.

Hope to see you at our February meeting!

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