

March 2006



# EGN

## Erie Gay News



### Trigon Speaker March 15

Trigon will present philosopher, moralist, and gay-rights advocate John Corvino Thursday March 16 at 7:30 PM, McGarvey Commons at Penn State Behrend in Erie.

The topic will be "Homosexuality, Morality, and Diversity."

For more information on this event contact: dzs112@psu.edu or snn108@psu.edu This event is free and open to the public.

You can also learn more about Dr. Corvino at [http://www.kirklandproductions.com/ARTISTS/Dr\\_John\\_Corvino-bio.html](http://www.kirklandproductions.com/ARTISTS/Dr_John_Corvino-bio.html)

—from Trigon

### Vertigo Parties have moved

Vertigo parties will be going back to the Meridian Vets Club off of Eberhart Road in Butler PA. According to their organizer, "Everything is the same, price, time, BYOB. Smoking is not permitted but it's getting warm so I think it will be OK."

The next Vertigo is March 3.

Contact: [vertigov@aol.com](mailto:vertigov@aol.com) Visit <http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov/index.html>

—from Vertigo

### The State of LGBT Ohio

"After Issue One . . . where from here?" An informative Gathering with the Executive Directors of BRAVO (Buckeye Regional Anti-Violence Organization) and Equality Ohio: Tri-County Family Violence Protection Coalition. Adoption Issues in the Law, Hate Crimes, Family Violence Laws and more. Saturday, March 4, 10 AM till 4 PM at All Saints Community Church, 4530 St. Rt. 46 Cortland, OH (330) 637-1946. Sponsored by Robert Holmes III, Youngstown PFLAG, PFLAG of Warren, and All Saints Community Church All Saints Community Church 4530 St. Rt. 46 Cortland, OH (330) 637-1946 Seating is limited, call R. Holmes for a reservation: (330) 519-7578. [www.angelfire.com/oh5/youngstownpride/](http://www.angelfire.com/oh5/youngstownpride/)

### Drenched Fur II Saturday Night Tickets on Sale!

Drenched Fur II, Erie's Exclusive Bear Run, and Trance Dance Club Present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bear Night Event with guest entertainer Elijah Black! We're inviting everyone to come join us for one of the best parts of Drenched Fur II without getting a run package for the whole weekend. Now you too can enjoy our buffet dinner and the acoustic sound of Elijah Black for only \$10! Where: Trance Dance Club @ 1601 Raspberry Ave. When: 8 PM, Saturday March 25. Cost: \$10 Admission/Person which includes: Cover Charge, Buffet Dinner as well as this exclusive solo performance of Elijah Black! For info on Elijah, check out [www.elijahblack.com](http://www.elijahblack.com) or log onto [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com) for Run Weekend info. To purchase your event tickets, contact: Peter by email at [eriepeter@gmail.com](mailto:eriepeter@gmail.com) or call 814.384.9785. *Non-Run Participants must present event ticket to gain admission or pay at the door.*

—from Gary



*Some of the guys from the first Drenched Fur Weekend Bear event. Drenched Fur II will be held March 24-26, 2006.*

More Community News on page 4!

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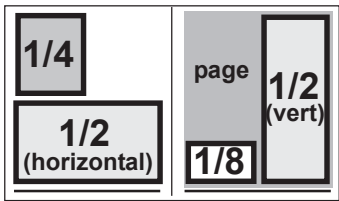
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On the cover: *Some of the guys from the first Drenched Fur Weekend Bear event. Drenched Fur II will be held March 24-26, 2006.*

## Calendar Listings are FREE!

Deadline is the 15th of the month.

### EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
Quarter	\$50 (\$45 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 2-7/8" wide
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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)  
Deadline for ads is the 15th



**Erie Gay News**  
**1115 West 7th St.**  
**Erie PA 16502-1105**  
**Phone: (814) 456-9833**  
**Fax: (270)423-6217**  
**[info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)**  
**[www.eriegaynews.com](http://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, Dale and Gary Snyder for folding; Dale, 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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) for date/time.

**Thursday, February 23th Roberta's Birthday Bash.**

*Karaoke and Drag*

**Saturday, February 25th Pretty Pretty Princess Turn About Party.**

*Boys come as Girls, Girls come as Boy*

**Tuesday, February 28th Fat Tuesday Party.**

**Friday, March 3rd Medication Age - Erie's Hot New Techno Duo!**

**HAPPY  
St. Patrick's  
Day!**

**Friday, March 17th  
Wearing of the Green Weekend  
Come Get Your Irish Up!  
Green Beer and Drink Specials!**

**Saturday, March 18th  
Prizes for the Hottest in Green  
Drink Specials!**

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 25th, Join Us from 8PM 'til ? for the

**2ND ANNUAL BEAR BAR NIGHT**

*As the Trance Dance Club Presents...*

9 PM LIVE at Trance Dance Club

**ELIJAH BLACK**

**Friday, March 31st , Rhiannon's Birthday Bash!**

Let your hair down – or take it off!

Sunday Nights on TV at 10PM

**"THE L WORD"**

With New Bartender KATY

**MONDAY NIGHTS ARE**

**College ID Night at Trance**

**Dance Bar Doors Open at 10 PM**

Guess What????????????????????????????????????

**WEDNESDAY**

Nights are Trivia nights starting at 8 PM

**EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT**

**KARAOKE**

Starting on at 9 PM



**Trance & Shout Outreach's**

**Casino Night!**

**Proceeds going to Erie Gay Pride**



**ERIE'S NEWEST**

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1607 Raspberry Street

Erie, PA 16502

814.456.3027

Visit our Website at: [www.trancedanceclub.com](http://www.trancedanceclub.com)

# Community News

*(continued from cover)*

## Moonsense events for March

Every Monday in March 5:30 - 6:30 PM 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 The very talented Carrie Sample will be playing Lesbian Folk Music.

1st and 3rd Monday 7-9 PM 3/6 & 3/20 Spa Night (Facials, Nails, Massage & Psychics)

Every Tuesday in March 5:30 - 6:30 PM 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, Local Guitar Teacher Luc Gaydos Struts his stuff playing very difficult Classical guitar riffs.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 8-9 PM Spoken Word Come and share or just listen either way it's an awesome night.

Every 3rd Tuesday of the Month the "Nonsense Players" are teaming up with Moonsense and the Trance to bring you: Improve, Skit and Stand-up Comedy.

March 21, 8-9 PM at Moonsense and 10-11 PM at the Trance Dance Club.

Every Wednesday in March 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 5:30 - 6:30 PM Jazz Jazz Jazz with James Small Ligons, Tremendous performer, blessed to have him.

Thursdays in March 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30 Family Karaoke 7-10 PM For the nonsmoking family crowd we have singers ranging from 3 to 83 years old. Good clean fun.

Fridays in March 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31 Open Mic Night 8-11 PM Wide variety of genres, call ahead if you would like to perform....868-1783

Saturdays in March 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25 Live music, different performers every month, 8-11 PM

3/4 Judith Avers a lesbian with a voice like an angel.

3/11 Rob Falgino A singer song writer from NYC

3/18 Bob Bearfield a powerful folk singer and Gay pride supporter (He was on the cover of last months EGN)

3/25 Descriptive Claim Blue Grass that kicks A\*\*! They will rock your world.

Saturday Afternoons

"Common Ground" 3/4, 3/11, 3/25 1-3 PM Cathi Mitchell puts on a talent show with performers from all walks of life definitely something to check out and support

Every Saturday Afternoon 4-7 Family Karaoke. Moonsense Cafe is at 5442 Peach St, Erie PA

—From Jo Hyatt

## 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](http://www.tomboygirl.com)."

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

—by Kate Hentz



WHERE?  
CAN YOU FIND  
EGN  
Erie Gay News  
Check Out Our Website at: [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
for our list of locations



COMMUNITY  
UNITED  
CHURCH  
West 38th & Cascade  
Services Sunday at 11 AM  
Non Denominational  
All are Welcome!

## Letters

### Personal thanks

A personal thank you to Lee and Joe and to Greg and Jim for their sympathy and support in the recent loss of my mother

*Don and Ken*

# Calendar

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

**Feb 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](mailto:butlerdiversity@yahoo.com).

**Feb 23 - Roberta's Birthday Bash at Trance Dance Club**  
1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Karaoke and Drag Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 25 - "Mardi Gras Party- Zone Style" at Zone Dance Club**  
133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Follow the 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!" 814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Feb 25 - "Pretty Pretty Princess Turn About Party" at Trance Dance Club**  
"Boys come as Girls, Girls come as Boy." 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 28- "Fat Tuesday Party" at Trance Dance Club**  
1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

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

**Mar 3 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA)** Check new address for parties! [vertigov@aol.com](mailto:vertigov@aol.com). [www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov](http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov).

**Mar 3 - Performance: Medication Age at Trance Dance Club**  
1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Erie's Hot New Techno Duo Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

*(continued on page 8)*

## **Apartments for Rent: Available April 1, 2006 and May 1, 2006**

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Close to downtown**

*Call John at:*  
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After 5PM for appointment.

- Living room, Dining room, Sun room
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- Off street parking with garage
- Secure Entry system with intercom
- Secure mail system
- Hookups for W&D in basement
- Water, sewer and garbage included
- Snow plowing included
- Carpeted, drapes and blinds included
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- NO PETS
- Rent: \$400.00 per month  
plus security deposit

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No Appointment Necessary

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12 noon - 3:30 pm

**TUESDAY**

9:30 am - 1:00 pm

**MONDAY**

9:00 am - 11:00 am

**WEDNESDAY**

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**THURSDAY**

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

HIV & STD  
CLINIC 451-6700

Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department

Erie Office  
Outreach Services  
814.451.6732

Corry Office  
814.663.3891

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

**Mar 5 - Drenched Fur Planning Committee meets** Benjamin's Pub and Eatery, 10th & Peach St, Erie, PA. Meeting is open to the public for questions re: the event weekend and updates on event information. Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 384-0463. Email: gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com. Browse to <http://www.drenchedfur.com>.

**Mar 5 - 78th Academy Awards** 8 PM on ABC. With nominees like *Brokeback Mountain*, *Capote*, *Transamerica*, and more... should be very interesting this year!

**Mar 6 - 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 8 - "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>.

**Mar 11 - Menspace meets** Bob's, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. 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>.

**Mar 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](http://www.erielead.org)

**Mar 13 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets** Joseph Aguglia, Executive Director for the Erie County Human Relations Commission, will be speaking. 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.

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

**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 - "Wearing of the Green Weekend" at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Come get your Irish up! Green beer and drink specials! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.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>.

(continued on next page)

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Zuck/Rei	*



# Calendar

**Mar 17-18 - St. Patrick's Weekend at Club Queen (Warren OH)** Club Queen was formerly called Queen of Hearts. Located at 1977 Ridge Avenue SE, Warren, Ohio 44484 (330) 395-0111 [www.royalehearts.com/index.html](http://www.royalehearts.com/index.html)

**Mar 18 - Performance: Bob Bearfield at Moon-sense 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](mailto:bob@bobbearfield.com). Web: [www.bobbearfield.com](http://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 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](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Mar 18 - St. Patrick's Day Party at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "Prizes for the Hottest in Green! Drink Specials!" Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Mar 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](mailto:eriegaypride@yahoo.com). Browse to [http://eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/event\\_eriegaynews.com](http://eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/event_eriegaynews.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](mailto:bykota@eriegaynews.com).

**Mar 21 - "A Night of Comedy with the No Non-sense Players" at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Featuring Joy Hyatt Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.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](mailto: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 Brigidshaven. 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](mailto: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. See ad in this issue! Various venues. Contact: Gary. Phone: (814) 384-0463. Email: [info@drenchedfur.com](mailto:info@drenchedfur.com). Browse to <http://www.drenchedfur.com>.



## MOVIE EXCHANGE

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 Both are Exchangeable for \$1.49  
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 Exchangeable for \$3.99  
 All Types of VHS & DVDs Available!  
 On Going Reduction Sales!  
 Sale VHS & DVDs Not Exchangeable

**Coming Soon DVD Repair**

*(continued on page 10)*



Run Packages  
Available  
\$65 - \$85



## DRENCHED FUR II

*"Your event was a big success  
and can only get bigger!" - Kendall*



INDOOR WATER PARK RESORT



# Drenched Fur II March 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> '06

Join all the Bears from the Lake Erie  
Region of OH, NY, PA and more for the  
return of some relaxing fun in  
Erie, PA



Trance  
DANCE CLUB  
Presents



ELIJAH BLACK

9 PM LIVE at Trance

Saturday, March 25th,

Join Us from 8PM 'til ? for the

2ND ANNUAL BEAR BAR NIGHT



We're movin' on up this year to stay  
at The Avalon Hotel and Conference  
Center in downtown Erie!

We've set up a **group flat rate of only  
\$79/night** for single/double bedded  
rooms with up to 4 guests per room!

Or you can get a suite for only \$99/night!

Call now to book the 'Drenched Fur'

Special rate thru Mar 1! 1-800-822-5011

**Register & Pay On-line at [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com)**

# Calendar

**Mar 24 - "Bears in the Woods Party: Boot Camp" at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. The Zone welcomes all Drenched Fur Weekend II attendees for a night of Food, Furry Friends and Prizes at the Zone's Bar Bear Night!! Dress in military or survival gear for a night of prowling in the wilderness! Don't forget your coupons guys! Cosponsored by Jones Pond Campground, an all-male clothing-optional camping resort in Angelica, NY <http://www.jonespond.com/> Info for the 2006 camping season will be available at the Zone! Get into the ZONE! (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Mar 25 - "2nd Annual Bear Bar Night" at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM. "Elijah Black performs live at 9 PM. Also a buffet dinner. If you are not registered for Drenched Fur, you can get tickets at the door or in advance from Peter by email at [eriepeter@gmail.com](mailto:eriepeter@gmail.com) or call (814) 384-9785. The \$10 tickets include admission, the buffet and performance. If you ARE registered already for Drenched Fur, then this is included in your run package." Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Mar 31 - "Rhiannon's Birthday Bash" at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Let your hair down - or take it off! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814)

456-3027. Email: [lee@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:lee@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Mar 31 - Denise Russell at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "The Funny Lady returns for a night of comedy and fun!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Mar 31 - Apr 2 - Three Rivers Leather Club 15th Annual "Collar a Fool" (Pittsburgh, PA)** Info: David Grinnell (412)321-4963 or [drgrinnell@aol.com](mailto:drgrinnell@aol.com) / Dave Vey: [pghdav@aol.com](mailto:pghdav@aol.com) Browse to <http://www.trlc.net>.

**Apr 3 - 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!*" Ph: (814) 724-1832. Email: [bykota@eriegaynews.com](mailto:bykota@eriegaynews.com).

**Apr 5 - Always Our Children meets** Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

**Apr 7 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA)** Meridian Vets Club, Eberhart, Butler, PA. "We supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just BYOB" [vertigov@aol.com](mailto:vertigov@aol.com). [www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov](http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov).

**Apr 10 - 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](mailto:cindypurvis@velocity.net). Browse to [www.erielead.org](http://www.erielead.org)

**Apr 10 - PFLAG meets** Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie. 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark H [pflagerie@eriegaynews.com](mailto:pflagerie@eriegaynews.com) or John (814)454-1392.

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# Calendar

**Apr 11 - Hospice Support group for those dealing with loss** Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Also meets Apr 20 at 10 AM. (814) 456-6689. hospice@velocity.net.

**Apr 15 - Deadline for May 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.

**Apr 16 - 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](http://eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/event_eriegaynews.com).

**Apr 17 - 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!*" Ph: (814) 724-1832. Email: bykota@eriegaynews.com.

**Apr 19 - "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>.

**April 21 -23- Rainbow Wranglers Round Up (Cleveland OH)**, 15th annual weekend of country and western dancing fun benefits the Cleveland LGBT Center, includes dances at the Shed, 2901 Detroit Ave., and Saturday night Colonel's Ball at Grays Armyory, 1234 Bolivar Ave.; [www.rainbowwranglers.org](http://www.rainbowwranglers.org).



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# On stage

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

**Held over through Mar 11 - "Vagina Monologues" at the Roadhouse** directed by Nicole Stewart Hand, with Erica Heilmann as 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 24-Mar 12 - "Valhalla"** From Paul Rudnick, the author of "Jeffrey" and "The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told", comes his latest comic epic "Valhalla" Three Weeks Only!! At Alleyway Theatre, One Curtain Up Alley, in the heart of Buffalo's downtown Theatre District. Call (716) 886-9239. SPECIAL OFFER FOR ERIE GAY NEWS READERS- 2 FOR 1 tickets on Sundays only — Mention Erie Gay News special. Website: [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org) *No one under 18 admitted*

**Mar 2 - Toshi Reagon** - Club Cafe, Pittsburgh (412) 431-4950 [www.clubcafelive.com/](http://www.clubcafelive.com/)

**Mar 7 - Janis Ian** Club Cafe,, Pittsburgh (412) 431-4950 [www.clubcafelive.com/](http://www.clubcafelive.com/)

**Mar 7 - Jane Siberry** at Beachland Ballroom & Tavern, Cleveland, OH. (216) 383-1124 [www.beachlandballroom.com](http://www.beachlandballroom.com) [www.janesiberry.com/](http://www.janesiberry.com/)

**Mar 8 - Jane Siberry** at Club Cafe, Pittsburgh. [www.clubcafelive.com/](http://www.clubcafelive.com/) [www.janesiberry.com/](http://www.janesiberry.com/)

**Mar 9 - Ember Swift** at Nietzsche's in Buffalo NY <http://www.emberswift.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

**Mar 22 - Sheryl Crow** in concert at the Erie Civic Center, Erie PA. Charge (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070. All Ticketmaster outlets or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**Apr 4-9 - Paula Poundstone** at Hilarities 4th Street Theatre, 2035 E. 4th Street Cleveland, OH (216) 736.4242 (HAHA) [www.pickwickandfrolic.com](http://www.pickwickandfrolic.com)

**Apr 23 - Tret Fure** in concert at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, 4 PM. Tickets \$15 available at Aromas Coffeehouse and [www.tomboygirl.com](http://www.tomboygirl.com)

**Apr 26 - "Rent"** Warner Theatre. Charge tickets (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070 Box Office, 809 French St. all Ticketmaster outlets or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) [www.erieevents.com/warner.html](http://www.erieevents.com/warner.html)

## Websites/email lists for area performers

**Judith Avers** [www.judithavers.com/](http://www.judithavers.com/)

**Bob Bearfield** [www.bobbearfield.com](http://www.bobbearfield.com)

**Carrie Sample** [www.rockerie.com/thescene/bands/103](http://www.rockerie.com/thescene/bands/103)

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

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

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

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## St. Patrick's Day and HIV ~ Do you feel lucky?



Dear Readers:

St. Patrick's Day is a day full of shamrocks, green beads and Irish kisses.

For many, who knows where the day will take you? After a day of drinking, it may be easy to forget about the importance of protecting yourself every time you engage in sexual activity.

It is customary for many people to begin this holiday as early as 7 AM with kegs and eggs. This can easily turn into a whole day of drinking. Along with the consumption of alcohol, comes impaired judgment. It's hard to think straight and people are not acting like they normally would. This is why you need to be fully aware of the consequences to the actions you might take while under the influence.

After a few green beers, you might feel sexually turned on, and come out of your inner shell. This is why you need to know what you're up against before a sexual encounter.

You cannot determine if someone has an STD just by simply looking at them. You must approach each encounter as if the person is infected. Take all precautions. Use a new condom for each act of sex; this includes vaginal, anal, and oral sex. Keep a condom with you at all times. You may not start the day off expecting to spend the night with someone, but when the time comes and it does happen, it's better to be prepared, than taking your chances without one.

There are too many sexually transmitted diseases out there to simply leave it to luck. Do you feel lucky?

Condoms help protect men and their partners from the diseases that can be passed during sex. Condoms are absolutely necessary when having sex, especially when you are having:

- ✓ Sex with more than one partner
- ✓ Sex with someone who has or had an STD
- ✓ Anal sex
- ✓ Sex with someone who is now or has ever been an IV Drug User

According to the CDC, there are an estimated 15 million new cases of STDs each year in the United States-many of which often show no symptoms, but can still have devastating effects on the body if left untreated. Do you want to be one of the 15 million new cases? Of course not. Don't leave it to luck.

*Submitted by Shannon McCleary, Intern. Erie County Dept of Health 451-7856 smccleary@ecdh.org  
Patty Puline, HIV/AIDS Education & Training ppuline@ecdh.org*

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A stylized illustration of a man in a suit and sunglasses, holding a newspaper labeled "GAY NEWS". He is standing next to the subscription information.

# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Ohio Moves to Ban Gay Adoptions

Conservatives in the Ohio legislature have taken steps to limit parenting rights for LGBT people in the state.

Ten members of the Ohio General Assembly have introduced HB515, the "Adoptive and Foster Children's Protection Act," which would make it illegal to place foster-care and adoptive children in the homes of gay, bisexual or transgender people.

The legislators' may have felt empowered by the state's anti-gay marriage amendment, which passed with 61 percent of Ohio voters in 2004. That amendment went further than the usual language of marriage being a union between one man and one woman. The measure also contains the sentence, "this state and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage."

This broad language has had unexpected consequences in other legal matters. According to the

Associated Press, in January the Cuyahoga County public defender's office cited the language in moving to dismiss domestic violence charges against clients, claiming that the anti-gay amendment also meant that spousal abuse laws did not apply to unmarried couples.

Adoption and foster care provided by gay parents in Ohio has long been a target of conservatives. During the anti-gay marriage debate, anti-gay activist Fred Hutchison of RenewAmerica testified before an Ohio Senate subcommittee, talking at length about the "dangers to children living in gay households" and linking gay people to pedophiles. Christian groups sent more than 100 volunteers to lobby for the adoption/foster care ban last year, but the legislation was never introduced. This year's bill is the first of its kind, but the bill is still in the early committee stages.

Florida is the only state in the nation with an outright ban on gay adoption.

## U.S. Backs Exclusion Vote at U.N.

The United States has vote to exclude two gay rights groups from membership on a United Nations Economic and Social Council panel, citing concern over one organization's former links to pedophilia supporters.

In the Jan. 23 vote, the U.S. sided with Iran, China, Pakistan and other nations in excluding the Brussels-based International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), along with the Danish national gay and lesbian organization Landsforeningen for Bøsser og Lesbiske, from the U.N. Nearly 3,000 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) hold consultative status with the council, allowing them to participate in discussions among U.N. member states.

Edgar Vasquez, a State Department spokesman, said: "The United States continues to implement a law requiring certification by the United Nations to prohibit funding of NGOs that condone pedophilia. The United States as a policy matter remains concerned about support for pedophilia, and we believe that ILGA must establish a verifiable process" to ensure that neither it nor its member organizations promote or condone pedophilia.

Vasquez admitted the United States opposed ILGA's application because it once included the North American Man Boy Love Association as a member, a group that seeks to legalize sexual relations between

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# National News

adults and minors. However, ILGA expelled that group from its organization in 1994.

“In this case, we did not vote against the group because it was a gay rights group, but because of its past association with a group condoning pedophilia,” said Vasquez, referring to ILGA.

Vasquez said he did not know why the United States voted against the Danish group’s application.

Brad Luna, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, noted that the United States voted for ILGA’s inclusion on the Economic and Social Council four years ago. The official U.N. web site verifies this and notes, “The representative of the United States, who said his government had sought the earlier suspension of the organization because of the pedophilia issue, said he had not seen any proof that the organization now condoned pedophilia. On the contrary, he saw evidence that the NGO was saving lives in the struggle against HIV/AIDS.”

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) has asked U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to explain the U.N. vote.

In a letter to Rice, Frank said he was “deeply troubled to learn that the U.S. government, presumably at your direction, sided with some of the most undemocratic, anti-human rights regimes in the world.”

According to Human Rights Watch, the U.S. sided with Cameroon, China, Cuba, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Senegal, Sudan and Zimbabwe in voting against the applications. Chile, France, Germany, Peru and Romania voted to include the groups, while Colombia, India and Turkey abstained.

## Maryland Legislators Reject Amendment

The Maryland House of Delegates has rejected a state constitutional amendment to ban marriage recognition for same-sex couples. The amendment was proposed in response to last month’s court decision striking down the state’s anti-gay marriage law.

“Maryland Democrats successfully stood against Republican efforts to corrupt the legislative process with this bigoted amendment,” said Eric Stern, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats.

But same-sex marriage supporters warned that the marriage issue not dead for the legislative session. Other amendments are likely to be brought forth.

The Maryland Supreme Court is expected to hear an appeal from Republican Gov. Bob Ehrlich of the state circuit court ruling that struck down Maryland’s 1973 law against marriage recognition for same-sex couples.

## Northwest Airlines Accused of Bias

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has criticized Northwest Airlines for refusing to honor award tickets that a gay couple in Los Angeles tried to use for a trip to Florida.

In a letter to the airline, the ACLU said Northwest’s action violated California’s nondiscrimination laws.

According to press reports, Rob Anders, a long-time airline industry employee, won the tickets at a holiday party in December. When he tried to redeem the tickets for a trip with his registered domestic partner, the airline refused, saying it would only recognize a spouse, another airline employee or a dependent child as a suitable “companion” for the award ticket.

“What happened to Mr. Anders and his partner violates California law and is clearly discriminatory,” said Christine P. Sun, ACLU of Southern California staff attorney. “We are asking that the company not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status and honor Mr. Anders’ ticket for him and a companion.”

The ACLU cited California’s Unruh Civil Rights Act, which mandates “full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever” without regard to sexual orientation or marital status.



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# Coretta Scott King remembered

*Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., passed away January 30 2006.*

*Throughout her life, Mrs. King worked hard for civil rights for all people. She was also a strong supporter of civil rights for gay people, and never wavered, even when she was met with opposition to her stand.*

*Here are just some of the many memorable statements Mrs. King made on behalf of equality for GLBT people.*

"I still hear people say that I should not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people and I should stick to the issue of racial justice. But I hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brother- and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people."

March 31, 1998

"We have to launch a national campaign against homophobia in the black community."

June 8, 2001.

"Gay and lesbian people have families, and their families should have legal protection, whether by marriage or civil union. A constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages is a form of gay bashing and it would do nothing at all to protect traditional marriages."

March 23, 2004

"For many years now, I have been an outspoken supporter of civil and human rights for gay and lesbian people. Gays and lesbians stood up for civil rights in Montgomery, Selma, in Albany, Ga. and St. Augustine, Fla., and many other campaigns of the Civil Rights Movement. Many of these courageous men and women were fighting for my freedom at a time when they could find few voices for their own, and I salute their contributions."

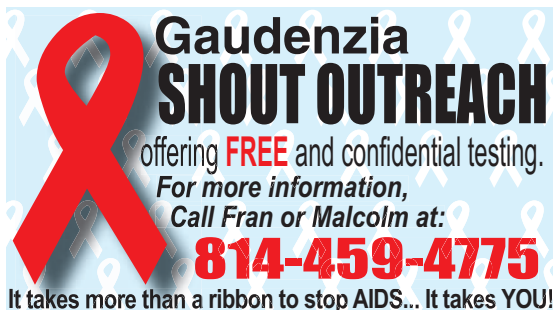
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"We have a lot more work to do in our common struggle against bigotry and discrimination. I say 'common struggle' because I believe very strongly that all forms of bigotry and discrimination are equally wrong and should be opposed by right-thinking Americans everywhere. Freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation is surely a fundamental human right in any great democracy, as much as freedom from racial, religious, gender, or ethnic discrimination."

November 9, 2000

"For too long, our nation has tolerated the insidious form of discrimination against this group of Americans, who have worked as hard as any other group, paid their taxes like everyone else, and yet have been denied equal protection under the law... I believe that freedom and justice cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience. My husband, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' On another occasion he said, 'I have worked too long and hard against segregated public accommodations to end up segregating my moral concern. Justice is indivisible.' Like Martin, I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others. So I see this bill as a step forward for freedom and human rights in our country and a logical extension of the Bill of Rights and the civil rights reforms of the 1950's and '60's. The great promise of American democracy is that no group of people will be forced to suffer discrimination and injustice."

Remarks at press conference on the introduction of Employment Non-Discrimination Act (supporting GLBT rights in the workplace), Washington, DC, June 23, 1994.



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# Stop Santorum

by Deb Spilko

*Chickenhawk n. A person enthusiastic about war, provided someone else fights it; particularly when that enthusiasm is undimmed by personal experience with war; most emphatically when that lack of experience came in spite of ample opportunity in that person's youth.*

The “chickenhawk” charge has been a sensitive issue for a lot of the Republicans who have been so gung-ho about the US going to war.

Rush Limbaugh sat out the War in Vietnam claiming a deferment for an anal cyst. Other warmongering Republicans also avoided military service: Hawkish performers Lee Greenwood, Toby Keith, Bruce Willis, Charlie Daniels and Ted Nugent, did not serve. Pro-war commentators like Sean Hannity, Bill O'Reilly, Chris Matthews, Bill Bennett (author of *Why We Fight*), Michael Savage, P.J. O'Rourke (*Give War a Chance*), Ken Starr, Michael Medved, George Will; none of these men served in the US military. Pat Robertson claimed to have been a combat veteran, but his powerful father got him out. Religious right wing leaders Jerry Falwell and Ralph Reed did not serve.

Among prominent Republicans in Congress and the Bush Administration, the list is just as undistinguished. There is of course, President Bush himself, whose father got him a cushie stateside assignment with the Alabama National Guard while other people's kids were dying in the swamps and jungles of Vietnam, and who apparently went AWOL even for part of that assignment. Vice President Dick Cheney avoided the draft altogether, saying he “had other priorities than military service”; former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay avoided the draft, explaining “so many minority youths had volunteered ... that there was literally no room” for people like him. Also avoiding the draft were White House advisor Karl Rove, Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert; former House Majority Leader Dick Armey; former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott; former Attorney Gen. John Ashcroft (received deferments to teach business education) former Speaker Newt Gingrich; and former Senator Phil Gramm.

The draft had ended by the time US Senator Rick Santorum turned 18. However, he too chose not to serve in the military.

But Santorum has now proposed a way for himself and his fellow chickenhawks to feel okay about their lack of military service. Last month at a Republican Party event, he remarked that putting a Santorum bumpersticker on your car was equivalent to military service. Lest you think I misunderstood, I'll let you see the quote, straight from the horse's um, mouth:

“We live in a culture today that doesn't say ‘serve,’ It says ‘me, me me.’ It's a very self-absorbed, self-centered, excessive popular culture . . . And yet we have brave men and women who are willing to step forward because they know what's at stake. They're willing to sacrifice their lives for this great country. What I'm asking all of you tonight is not to put on a uniform. Put on a bumper sticker. Is it that much to ask? Is it that much to ask to step up and serve your country, to fight for what we believe in. To fight for the values that have made this the country the greatest country ... we got here because we were a good decent county. A country guided by divine Providence ... We will only stay that great country if we continue that fight. I'm asking you to help me do that.”

Yes, Senator Rick Santorum, who never stepped up to serve his country in uniform, is actually saying that putting one of his campaign stickers onto your car is equal to serving—or dying—in US combat operations. You can see the actual video of this speech at <http://santorumexposed.com/serendipity/index.php>

That statement is so stupid and offensive that it deserves to stand by itself. So for this month, I will leave it at that.

For more on the subject of “Who Served in the Military?” visit [www.awolbush.com/whoserved.html](http://www.awolbush.com/whoserved.html)

An extensive “Chickenhawk Database” can be found at [www.thebirdman.org/Index/Index-DailyReads-Antiwar-ChickenhawkDatabase.htm](http://www.thebirdman.org/Index/Index-DailyReads-Antiwar-ChickenhawkDatabase.htm)

For updates on local and area activities related to defeating Santorum, subscribe to the GLBT Vote List, by visiting [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com) For more information on Rick Santorum (particularly of GLBT interest), visit Stop Santorum Now at [www.stopsantorumnow.org/](http://www.stopsantorumnow.org/)

# PFLAG News

## PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties

by Mark H, President, PFLAG Erie & Crawford

Come join us in welcoming the new Erie County Human Relations Commission Executive Director, March 13 7 PM - 8:30 PM at our regular meeting!

Our chapter announces and invites you to attend our March 13 Meeting in welcoming our guest speaker, Joseph Aguglia, the Erie County Human Relations Commission (HRC) Executive Director. We invited him to speak about the Commission's local office, which is once again handling discrimination complaints and investigations. Mr. Aguglia will speak, provide information and open the floor for Q & A time. (Light refreshments provided.)

Our chapter is still working to setup a self-help Library with our resources and materials to be available for our members and general, Erie-area community. We are still in search of either donations to buy or a used donation of a locking, mobile bookstand-type or cabinet to house and store our library. 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 this.

Our meetings will continue throughout the winter months. When the weather conditions are severe, we may not meet. Our next meeting is Monday, March 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](mailto:pflagerie@eriegaynews.com); PO BOX 8914, Erie, PA 16505. Phone number (John) is: (814)-454-1392, feel free to leave a message.



Angie Merchant has worked as an HIV Case Manager since 1996 and has been with the Alliance since 1999. She is Spanish speaking and available to our HIV Hispanic community. Angie is one of our dedicated people.

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"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  
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Renaissance Centre  
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office:  
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# Michael Dithers

I was really thrilled that so many of us got together in January to see Brokeback Mountain at Tinseltown, and then went out to dinner together at the Golden Corral. It was really enjoyable, and we had a wonderful cross section of our community. Again, BBM is probably one of the profoundly moving and poignant movies I have seen in a long time.

The Human Rights Campaign is suggesting that folks do an Academy Awards party on Sunday, March 5 as a means of increasing awareness, facilitating activism and just plain having a good time. Given that BBM led the pack for Oscar nominations, I am guessing that more than a few cowboy/Western themed Academy Award parties were already scheduled in gay households. More details are at [http://www.hrcactioncenter.org/actioncenter/notice-description.tcl?newsletter\\_id=3492284](http://www.hrcactioncenter.org/actioncenter/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=3492284). Actually, given the plethora of GLBT related films up for awards, and how much Oscar night tends to appeal to our community, this probably isn't a difficult concept to sell.

Planning for the Pride March/Rally on September 30 seems to be going relatively well. There will be more details as things progress. We are also about to start planning for the Pride Picnic on June 10 soon. The first meeting will be on Sunday, March 12. The Picnic tends to be less complicated than the March/Rally, so we can start planning later. Hopefully, both events will be well supported.

Did folks hear the new Willie Nelson song? There was a song dating back to the 80's entitled "Cowboys are Frequently Secretly (Fond of Each Other)" that was previously performed by Pansy Division. Willie decided to record his own version and announced the release on Valentines Day. From all accounts, he seems to be an incredibly kind and thoughtful human being. Willie Nelson also recorded the closing song for Brokeback Mountain, which was written by Bob Dylan in the early 1960's. Who knew that Country music was the next big gay genre?

I am also thrilled that the planning seems to be going so well for Drenched Fur on March 24-26. I have been helping out Gary with some of the web site/geek stuff. It has been interesting watching registrations roll in. I was taken somewhat aback when we got a couple from Tennessee, and then floored when we got someone from the state of Washington. It really means a lot to me that we have events that are well supported spread throughout the year.

I was having a hard time not losing it when someone I know was expressing surprise that the story about Cheney shooting his hunting companion was such big news. Um, any story involving a top government official and firearms is bound to attract some media attention. Sigh.

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