

May 2006



EGN



Erie Gay News

Erie Pride Picnic on June 10

The 14th Annual Pride Erie Picnic will be held at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle on Saturday, June 10 from 1 to 6 PM. We will be providing burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks. Please bring a dish to pass.

We need your help! Volunteers are needed to help with staffing the kitchen, running the grill, and also for the registration and photo tables. We only ask for an hour of your time, and it's a great way to make new friends and be genuinely helpful!

You can read more about the picnic at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com> and you can register online at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>. You can also call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833.

— *Pride Picnic Committee*



Relaxing at the 2nd Drenched Fur event (see "Community News" for wrap-up of the weekend).

Drenched Fur II is another "splashing" success!

Well the weekend has once again come and gone and it's back to life as we knew it before the fur invasion began. Now that we've had the opportunity to get some perspective we're very pleased with the way the weekend went overall. To break it down: we had nearly 90 furry boys join us for some fun and wet times on Saturday afternoon at the Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park. Our host bars during the weekend, The Zone Dance Club and Trance Dance Club, both were well received by the 100+ bears, cubs, and admirers that came into Erie for our weekend run.

Thanks go out to them and all of our vendor/businesses for making the weekend such a success! *And I* want to give some *huge* Thank Yous to my committee members for all their hard work and effort. Speaking of, the committee is meeting to work on DFIII (Drenched Fur III) for next year in 2007 on Sunday May 7th at 3 PM. If you are interested in helping us plan or want to learn more, *please* feel free to send us an email at info@drenchedfur.com or call me at 814.384.0463 for details/directions as well as checking out our website at www.drenchedfur.com.

We're *serious* about accepting your help and volunteering! The only way we can work to make things better is to provide honest help and feedback to see what we can do to improve upon. Until the next year, Hugs and Woofs from the Drenched Fur II Committee!

—by Gary Snyder, aka Gar-Bear

Alcoholics Anonymous for Gays and Lesbians

I've been clean and sober for the past three years, attending two to four AA meetings per week. There is a need for a gay and lesbian meeting, focusing on some of our challenges and pitfalls with this disease, a disease that's very baffling and cunning, destroying families, careers and life itself! We need a gay-friendly at-

More Community News on page 4

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On the cover: Relaxing at Splash Lagoon at the 2nd Drenched Fur event.

EGN Rates & Data

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL	EIGHTH PAGE	

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 VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRIS.

All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

EGN Rates & Data

CALENDAR LISTINGS Are Free!

All listing entries must be received by the 15th of the month.



Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502-1105
 Phone: (814) 456-9833
 Fax: (270)423-6217
 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 Mike Lipiec, James von Loewe, Lynne Rhodes, Deb Spilko, Jack Walburn, Roni Tyson and Gary Snyder for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Lynne Rhodes, John & Paula King, Lois Ann Pearo, Roni Tyson, Brian How, Gary Snyder & 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.

SATURDAY May 13th
"STOCKS AND BONDAGE"



We are having our second annual leather fetish Party.

Dress in leather, lace, latex.....

This is gonna be one twisted night!

What's your leather fantasy?

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Trance Dance Club
1607 Raspberry Street
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TRANCEDANCECLUB.COM

Community News

(continued from cover)

mosphere, where you can speak your mind, conscience, fears and hopes. There are AA meetings, Afro-American AA meetings, professional people AA meetings, etc. On Tuesday May 2, the first gay and lesbian meeting will be called to order, the only requirement is the desire to stop drinking! If anyone thinks that they may have a drinking problem, or you're just tired of being sick and tired, come and listen, we can help you. Gays and lesbians that are currently in the AA fellowship should continue going to their regular meetings, Tuesday nights according to their schedules.

The new gays and lesbians AA meeting will be held every Tuesday, from 8 to 9 PM, beginning May 2. Call 800-736-8850 for additional information and location. *Ask for Brad.*

—A grateful recovering alcoholic

Moonsense Closes on Peach, may reopen elsewhere

The Moonsense Cafe closed its Peach Street location on April 1.

"It's really sad," said Moonsense general manager Jo Hyatt. "It was such a wonderful bubble of tolerance and culture. We had Christians, and pagans, and the crossdresser group, book clubs met here, LECOM students came here. You could bring your kids. So many people came into the cafe that I would never have expected to see there. It was just a really great place."

"Unfortunately there was just too much overhead," she said. "I cut everything I could cut. It's the economy, nothing that our customers did. You could see it when gas prices went up, people didn't have as much money to spend."



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Jo said that the owners, Tim and Mary Larson, may open elsewhere after the summer. She said that one place that is under consideration is on the east side of Erie.

—info from Jo Hyatt

Womynspace news

Womynspace is getting a bit of a face lift in June to allow everyone, computer users and non computer users, to participate in the activities.

I have spoken to several women who are interested in meeting others for social exchanges and yet have no idea how or where to do this. That is why my partner, Heather Malobisky, and I will be giving Womynspace a little more organization. We would like to reach out to those who are looking to make new friends and participate in social activities.

In June during the Pride Picnic, we will be available to talk to anyone interested in becoming a part of this group. We will be able to answer any questions and even take suggestions on meeting places as well as events and activities for the group. So please look for our article in the June issue of the Erie Gay News for more information on where we will be at the picnic and how you can recognize us for contact. In the mean time, should you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (814)572-3604 or if you want, you can email us at tramsey135@yahoo.com.

from Tara Ramsey

Trance Remodeling

Trance is getting ready to make some major changes, or as the staff calls it a "Trance-formation"

The blue will be gone and there will be a more relaxed atmosphere in the main dance club. Music will include more hip-hop, r&b, club, with 80s and 90s mixed in.

There will be edgier theme parties, showing a little more skin., and new entertainers such as Rylee, Violet Rae, MAS NOVA.

Other improvements include more patio entertainment with the Oasis Bar, frozen drink specials and the new exclusive frozen "Squishies."

Trance will be open during construction and will have its full unveiling for the Memorial Day weekend. Come check us out and thanks for all your support.

—Lee and the staff at "Trance."

Community News

Online group for area transsexuals

There is now an online discussion group for transsexuals in and around the Erie area. The group, called W PA Transsexuals, is for Male-to-Female and Female-to-Male transsexuals (transitioning and post-operative). The group also welcomes supportive friends, family or coworkers of transsexuals who would like to understand about them better, as well as those who would like to provide services to the transsexual community (medical, therapy, electrolysis or other services). The purpose of this group is to provide support, sharing of knowledge, friendship and a listing for local GLBT events.

"Transition can be difficult and sometimes very lonely," says the group's founder, Allison Renee Steward. She has been transitioning for the past three years. "It is my hope that by creating this group, it will give you a place to share your experiences." She says that she has set up the group to focus on the Erie area, extending out to the region bounded by the cities of Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

Allison is fairly adamant that sex not become the focus of the group. "I would like this group to be a place where you would be willing to bring your mother," she says.

To join the group or to learn more about it, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WPATranssexuals/> If you do not have a Yahoo account, you will need to set one up. It's free and easy, but if you have any problems, or don't know how to participate in an online discussion group, contact Allison for assistance at AllisonReneeS@aol.com

—from Allison

Family Picnic in Cleveland Heights

Join us as The Center of Greater Cleveland presents the very first community-wide LGBT Family Picnic on Saturday, May 13, Noon - 6 PM at Forest Hill Park in Cleveland Hts (Corner of Lee and Monticello). Families are encouraged to bring their own picnic lunches or dinners. There will be lots of activities for children such as sidewalk chalk, face painting and more! Check back for updated details <http://www.lgcsc.org/>

—The Center of Greater Cleveland

Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival

The 31st Annual Delta Foundation Memorial Day Festival benefiting the Steel City Softball League is fast approaching. It will still have all of the fun you've come to expect, including dancing with several guest DJ's, picnic food and beverages (of course that does include the beer truck), the Midway Madness vending booths, live bands, Drag Queen Bar Wars and the dunk tank.

Last year's move to Sunday proved to be a great adjustment. (Guess everyone loved not having to call off sick from work on Tuesday!) It will be held May 28 at 11 AM. The event once again will be held at the South Park Fairgrounds. The South Park location includes several large indoor areas, so who cares if we get a little rain? There is plenty of room to move the entire event indoors if necessary. Those indoor areas do include 2 dance halls, which means in addition to the traditional club style dancing, there will be a country music hall with line dancing instructors.

Also included this year will be a softball field and huge volleyball courts. There's even convenient parking and all restrooms will be indoors (so no more trudging through the mud to the port-a-potties!). Also returning this year will be a free shuttle service from the T stop at Lytle Road (Bethel Park, Park and Ride lot). Which means you can park your car or take the bus downtown, ride the 47L to the Fairgrounds, and then return that evening to continue partying downtown Sunday night.

All this fun is still the same price as last year, \$20 advance or \$25 at the gate. Price includes en-

(continued on next page)

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Community News

trance to all events, food, soft drinks and beer. Tickets will be available for sale at area gay establishments. See the upcoming Festival ad or www.MemorialDayFestival.com for the complete list. Also, tickets may be purchased on line this year through Paypal on the www.MemorialDayFestival.com website.

The South Park Fairgrounds are located in South Park near the intersection of Brownsville Road and Corriган Drive. The park is accessible from 51 South, via Brownsville Road. Once in the park, follow the signs to the Fairgrounds. You may contact the Festival committee at MemorialDayFestival@comcast.net, or call (412) 683-7676, ext 3. Directions in more detail may be found at www.MemorialDayFestival.com.

—Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival

Comedy Night at Trance

Night of comedy with the No-Nonsense Players at Trance the third Tuesday of every month.

The next comedy night will be Tuesday, May 16.

—Trance

Girls Night Out

Remember when crocheted belts were all the rage back in the 1960's? Just as everything old becomes new again so has the crocheted belt fallen back into style.

The Shops at the Blue Heron Inn in Findley Lake, located in the restored red barn behind the Inn, will host the second monthly "Girl's Night Out" from 6 to 9 PM Wednesday, May 17. The series of monthly events, celebrating women, friendship and fun, will begin with a picnic supper followed by the evening's focus, learning to crochet. The program, "Crochet a Summer Belt," will be taught by Carmen Opperman, owner of Calico Cat Yarn. The Blue Heron Inn will provide a picnic dinner prior to the instruction outside on the lake view deck. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening.

The cost of the May 17 event is \$30.00 per person which includes instructions, all materials and a picnic supper. No experience is required and beginners are welcome. Make it a real night out and bring along your Mom, sister, daughter or girlfriend! Attendance is limited to 25 participants and reservations and payment are required in advance. Reservations may be made by phone at 716.769.7852 or by email at stay@theblueheroninn.com.

Crime Victim Center Needs Your Used Books

Crime Victim Center of Erie County will be accepting donations of used books, videos, games, puzzles, CDs, tapes and records during the month of May for their annual fundraiser,

Book It! items may be dropped off at the Center - 125 West 18 Street - between 8:30 and 4:30 Monday through Friday. (Please - no sets of encyclopedias)

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Ohio voters info

Helpful information about GLBT candidates and issues for Ohio primary (May 2)

Equality Ohio www.equalityohio.org

Gay People's Chronicle

www.gaypeopleschronicle.com

Community News

dias, text books, Harlequins or Reader's Digest Condensed books.) **Book It!** will be held August 11 and 12 at the Center.

Crime Victim Center provides services for **all** types of crime victims and assisted more than 6,500 people in our community just last year – 1,230 of the victims were children who experienced sexual or physical violence. Services include crisis intervention 24 hours a day, counseling, court accompaniment and help in filing claims for Crime Victims Compensation.

Satellite offices are located in Corry, Girard, Edinboro and North East. Prevention/education programs on various topics and for all ages are available. For more information, call the Crime Victim Center - 455-9414.

—*Angela Porfillio*
Crime Victim Center

Cleveland leather weekend 4/28-30

The fifth annual Cleveland Leather Awareness weekend (CLAW) will take place April 28-30 at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Cleveland. Events include the first annual CLAW Juried Art Show (22 artists featured), Vendor Mart, Education Marts, Silent Auction, Leather Flea Market, field trips, dances, dinners, banquets and parties all over town. CLAW profits go 100% to charity.

Last year's event presented the gay community with \$20,000 in life-changing and life-affirming donations. Donations to CLAW, the Auction or Leather Flea Market are tax deductible. CLAW is a certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity corporation.

Check the website to be included in the Vendor or Education Marts. Info at www.clawinfo.org

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This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant under
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Letters

A Note of Thanks

Six and a half years ago, I, for the first time stepped in front of a crowded bar and began something that will always be a great chapter in my life.

Back then, I never would have thought that I was to become Miss Erie, and in such a short time from now it will be over. I would now like to say a special thank you to everyone who has been such great support over the years, and thank you to those of you, and you all know who you are, for helping me become the best performer that I could be.

I would also like to say that I know I was not always easy to get along with, and at times, I even made a fool of myself. However, I suppose we all do live and learn from our mistakes.

There are so many memories that I have been a part of that I will carry with me always, and I again say thank you to everyone for making this past year as Miss Erie an experience I will never forget.

With all the wonderful people that showed me how much they appreciated my performances that what I am about to tell you all is even harder for me to say than you might think, and that is I will be taking an extended break from drag and I am also moving the beginning of July.

In closing this little note, I would like to tell you all that where ever I go and what ever I do, I will always cherish the memories I have made over the last 6 years of my life as being one of the many wonderful performers here in Erie. Yes I will be back and visit, please do not think you can get rid of me that easily. He-he-he!

Once again, I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Yours always and forever,
Taylor Morgan A.K.A. Scotty Z.



Youth

McDowell survey: Now Uncool to be Seen as Anti-Gay in High school

by Michael R Komo

Recently, several students at McDowell High School were surveyed about homosexuality. Ninety three percent of the students that participated believe that both gay and bisexual people should be given the same rights (no better, no worse) that straight people are given. The majority of high school students are in favor of pro-gay rights.

In my own personal experience, I have found that while some (straight) teens use the phrase "that's so gay", most students feel that it is extremely uncool to be antigay. In fact, almost all of the students surveyed believe that being homophobic is just as bad as being racist. Several of the students admitted to having used the phrase "that's so gay". Although, most of them claimed to only having used it because they heard other people using it and picked up the bad habit, not because they are prejudiced against gay and bisexual people. However, those students pledged to make a conscious effort to stop using it now that they are aware of how hurtful it can be. Also, they were in agreement that the phrase being used negatively is slowly but surely fading away.

I surveyed several health classes at my high school. My results are as follows:

-93% believe that both gay and bisexual people should be given the same rights (no better, no worse) that straight people are given.

-83% would allow openly gay adults to serve as Scout leaders and teachers.

-75% have absolutely no problem and are completely comfortable with people who identify as gay or bisexual.

-70% believe that gay and bisexual people should be socially accepted and legally recognized.

-53% support legalizing same-sex marriage and feel that it is fair and necessary.

-Only 14% support a Constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

These statistics show that being gay is becoming more socially acceptable everyday. Students are realizing just how important it is to address the issue of homophobia. The battle for equality is well on its way to victory but is certainly not over.

Calendar

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

Apr 29 - 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 9 PM. 2 Girls Alone will perform at Two Friends Italian Market (at 10th and French Streets in Erie) on Saturday, April 29 from 7 PM to 9 PM Time subject to change. For more information and a pizza coupon good for that night, email twogirlsalone@att.net. Phone: (814) 461-9966. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net

May 1 - 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.

May 1 - 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

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

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Come get in a Cinco at Trance. Dance to your favorite R&B hits and Latin grooves. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Get into your Latin groove as we play a little hot salsa, drink a few cold coronas, and fiesta the night away! Try a Margarita or Strawberry Daiquiri from our *new* frozen drink machine! Vamos en el Zone!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

May 5 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA) Meridian Vets Club, Eberhart, Butler, PA. "We supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just BYOB." vertigov@aol.com. www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

May 6 - Heaven: 8th Annual Spring White Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "A night of fantasy and fun! One of our biggest events of the season! *Wear white!* -white denim-white lace-white underwear- white toga! -just wear anything white! - PRIZE for Best Fantasy Costume dressed in white! Grab your angel wings and come dance on

cloud 9! New club, bigger party!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

May 8 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County 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.

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

May 10 - The Guys at Aroma's at Aroma's Coffee-house 2174 W 8th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together for gay/bi men at this local coffeehouse. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>

May 12 - Denise Russell is Back! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Your favorite Funny lady is back for an Encore Performance! (Actually

(continued on page 10)

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Calendar

the girl forgot her favorite pair of heels!) So invite Mom and your friends for a Fun-filled evening of Entertainment by the Fabulous Denise Russell and Special Guest - KiArra Fontaine! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

May 12 - Friday Night Drag: Rough Sex at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Check out the edgier side of your favorite Trance performers. Show time 11 PM Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 13 - Trance's 2nd Annual Black & Blue Ball: Stocks and Bondage at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. This is gonna be one twisted night! What's your leather fantasy? Prizes sponsored by Modern Adult news, 1113 State St. Be here by Midnight for prizes! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 13 - Family Picnic (Cleveland Hts OH) Lots of activities for kids. <http://www.lgscs.org/>

May 14 - 2nd Annual Mother's Day Mommie Dearest Celebration at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Check your closet and bring out a wire hanger and a free well drink. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

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

May 15 - 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.

May 19 - Game Night at Youngstown Pride Center. 7-10 PM Board games and others. Bring your favorite. First Unitarian Church, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown Oh <http://www.angelfire.com/oh5/youngstownpride/events.htm> (330) 74-PRIDE (747-7433)

May 19 - Oasis Patio Bar Grand Opening at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "You've been asking and asking and now it's finally here. The Oasis Patio Bar is officially open! Sit out under the star with your friends and enjoy a delicious, refreshing and exclusive Trance Squishy!" Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 20 - Erotic: 8th Annual Levis, Leather, Fetish Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. (Armed Forces Day) "A steamy night of erotic fantasies! Let your inhibitions run wild and come dance in our dungeon! Wear levis, leather, military, uniforms, underwear, fetish gear, or come in fantasy costume! Dress as: leather daddy- slave boy -construction worker -western cowboy - diva dominatrix -naughty nurse - sexy stripper -or show off your skin art and piercings- not sure what to wear?- just wear *black!* -- Sorry *No Nudity!* The Zone's version of fantasy fest!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

May 21 - 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.

May 24 - Equality PA (Southwest Region) meets Ginger Hill UU Congregation, 174 S Main St, Slippery Rock, PA. 7 PM. Contact Reid at (724) 735-4407 butlerdiversity@yahoo.com.

May 26 - TRANCE-formation Weekend Part 1 - The Facelift Party Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Out with the BLUE... In with the NEW! New shows with an edge! Sexier theme par-

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Calendar

ties! New entertainers! Larger music variety! MORE hip hop, R&B, club, 80's, 90's! Come see what we've done for you! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 27 - TRANCE-formation Weekend Part 2 - Purple Haze Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA Wear your hottest PURPLE! Glowsticks - Prizes - Drink Specials. Party all night long as we kick off the new Trance! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 28 - Zone's Party Bus to the Pittsburgh Gay Picnic! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Hop on board as we start the party early! Grab your friends and let us be your designated driver! -so you can have a good time! Reserve your tickets early -- because there are only a limited number of seats available! Tickets avail-

able at the bar. Wear your Zone T-shirts and represent Erie! Please don't drink and drive—be safe! Come with us!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>

May 28 - Patio Cook Out - Good Friends, Good Food, Good Times at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 4 PM - 7 PM. Entertainment by Bob Bearfield and Mas Nova. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 28 - Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival South Park Fairgrounds. See ad in this issue and article in "Community News."

May 31 - The Guys at Aroma's Coffeehouse 2174 W 8th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together for gay/bi men at this local coffeehouse. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>



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.

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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
1001 State St. Suite 703
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office:
15870 Route 322 Suite 2
Clarion, PA 16214

**814-764-6066 or
1-800-359-2437**

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

Hágase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

Calendar

Jun 2 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA) Meridian Vets Club, Eberhart, Butler, PA. "We supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just BYOB" vertigov@aol.com. www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

Jun 2 - Miss Erie Pageant 2006! - Beautiful! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Join us as we crown the new Miss Erie! - An elegant evening of entertainment! Applications and rules available at the bar." Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Jun 3 - Boys Gone Wild at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "Let's show this town just how wild you boys are. Girl are naturally invited to be wild with us. Strippers and drink specials." Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jun 3 - Bed 2: Arabian Nights! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Join us on our *bed* of roses for an exotic evening of foreplay! Light some candles, get out the massage oils and lube, put on some romantic music, and slip into something sexy! Summer evenings are *hot*. What do you wear to bed? Ladies wear - sexy lingerie, silk or sexy pajamas, sexy underwear! Guys wear - sexy and revealing underwear, silk pajamas or bottoms! ...or just wear a sheet if you sleep naked! Sorry- *No Nudity!* A steamy night of fun as we explore the many positions of the Kama Sutra! Get into the Zone, get under the sheets, and get into bed for a Tantric orgy of fun." (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jun 5 - 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

Jun 5 - 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.

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

Jun 10 - Pride Picnic Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle, Erie, PA. 1 - 6 PM. Family style picnic, hot dogs, burgers and soft drinks and table setting provided. Please bring dish to pass. Family Portrait will be taken at 4 PM for those who want to be included in the annual photo. Please register at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>. Volunteers are needed! Because of state law, alcohol is not permitted. More details about the picnic are at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

Jun 10 - Post-Pride Picnic Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "Keep your pride party going with us here at Trance and try one of our exclusive Pride-tini. Be here, Be Queer." Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jun 11 - SHOUT Outreach & Trance's Casino Night fundraiser for Erie Pride Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Blackjack, rou-

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Calendar

lette, chuck a luck and the "big wheel". More details coming. Details about the Erie Pride Weekend are at <http://eriepride.eriegaynews.com>. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jun 12 - PFLAG meets Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie. 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark H pflagerie@eriegaynews.com or John (814)454-1392.

Jun 13 - Hospice Support group for those dealing with loss Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Also meets Jun 15 at 10 AM. (814) 456-6689. hospice@velocity.net.

Jun 15 - Deadline for July 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.

Jun 16 - 2nd Annual Miss Trance Diva Pageant at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "The 7 Deadly Sins. Ladies, you know you want that crown." Registration information available May 1, 2006. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jun 18 - Gay Day at Cedar Point, unofficial, unsponsored event. Wear red or rainbow colors, www.firelandspride.org, <http://ajw.freeshell.org/sanduskygaypride>.

Jun 18 - 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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Jun 21 - The Guys at Aroma's Coffeeshouse 2174 W 8th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together for gay/bi men at this local coffeeshouse. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>

Calendar listings are free!

Deadline is the 15th of the month.



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On stage

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

Apr 28 - May 27 - "I Am My Own Wife" at Buffalo United Artists, Main Street Cabaret, 672 Main Street (Alleyway Theatre complex), Buffalo NY <http://www.buffalobua.org/enter1.html>

Apr 29 - Kathy Griffin at Cleveland Playhouse Square <http://www.playhousesquare.com/>

Apr 29 "Take Action" Tour Buffalo, NY at Icon <http://www.takeactiontour.com/>

May 4-13 - Varla Jean "I'm Not Paying for This!" Cleveland Public Theater, Cleveland OH <http://www.cptonline.org/>

May 12 - Jul 8 - "tick, tick...BOOM!" at Roadhouse Theater, 145 W 11th St., Erie PA

May 20 - The Comedy of Judy Gold The New Tralf <http://www.newtralf.com/> 622 Main Street, 2nd Floor Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: (716)462-4427 Email: info@newtralf.com

Jun 3-4 Melissa Ferrick at Pride Buffalo www.pridebuffalo.org/

Jun 29-30 - Cirque du Soleil "Delirium" Pittsburgh, Mellon Arena <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com>

Jun 16-17 - Margaret Cho at The Improv in Homestead PA, 166 East Bridge Street, The Stacks at the Waterfront (412) 462-5233 21 & over.

Jun 23-24 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "Let Us Entertain You" www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/

Jul 6 till ? - "Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte" at Directors Circle Theatre, Renaissance Centre, Erie PA.

Aug 4-5 - Cirque du Soleil "Delirium" Cleveland, OH Quicken Loans Arena <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com>

Websites/email lists for area performers

Judith Avers www.judithavers.com/

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.

Opening July 6th
at
Directors Circle Theatre



Hush Up,
Sweet
Charlotte

A hilarious spoof of the film that starred Bette Davis and Olivia de Havilland. Adapted for the stage by Matthew Martin.

BUDDY PACY
as Charlotte Hollis

JEFF RODLAND
as Miriam Deering

MICHAEL WEISS
as Dr. Drew Bayliss

and

BARB SAMBROAK
as Velma Carruther

directed by Ryan Hallet

tick,
tick...
BOOM!

A musical by Johnathan Larson,
the creator of RENT.

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May 12 - July 8, 2006
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Summer Places & Events

Compiled by Deb Spilko

Pride Celebrations

Jun 2-4 Buffalo Pride www.pridebuffalo.org/
Jun 10 - ERIE PRIDE PICNIC Rotary Pavilion,
Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>
Jun 17 Cleveland Pride www.clevelandpride.org/
Jun 17 - Pittsburgh PrideFest [www.glccpgh.org/
PrideFest/PrideFest.htm](http://www.glccpgh.org/PrideFest/PrideFest.htm)
Jun 18 - Hamilton Pride (Hamilton Ontario)
<http://www.hamiltonpride.com/>
Jun 19-25 Pride Toronto www.pridetoronto.com/
July 26-30 Detroit Black Gay Pride ('Hotter Than July') www.hotterthanjuly.com
July 31-Aug 6 - Cleveland Black Gay and Proud
www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com
July 29 - Harrisburg Pride (Harrisburg PA)
www.harrisburgpride.org/
Jul 21-23 - Rochester Pride
Tim_Rhoades@usa.xerox.com
Date TBA - Toronto Black Gay Pride
www.torontoblackpride.com



Marshall Snyder working over the grill at the 2005 Erie Pride Picnic

Retreats & Resorts

Easton Mountain Retreat Center. Interfaith spiritual community of men who love men, offering wide variety of programs ranging from evening events to intensive workshops. www.eastonmountain.com/index.html

Provincetown, MA Provincetown Gay & Lesbian Guide <http://www.ptown.org/>

Rainbow Mountain Resort "The gay, lesbian & transgender resort, restaurant, and nightclub, located in the Pocono Mountains. www.rainbowmountain.com

Rehoboth Beach, DE <http://www.gaymart.com/5persorg/6city/udrehobo.html>

Women's festivals

Here are some women's festivals within or close to the northeastern United States. There will be no WimFest this year. More festivals can be found at www.offourbacks.org/Festivals.htm

May 26-29, 2006 CampOut (near Charlottesville VA) Memorial Day Weekend www.campoutva.com/

June 8-11 Womongathering Festival of Women's spirituality (near Carbondale PA) [womongathering.com/](http://www.womongathering.com/)

Jun 12-27 - V-Day: Until the Violence Stops (NYC) Festival of theater, spoken word, performance, community events and a run created to bring the issue of violence against women and girls front and center in the culture and the community. www.cirquedusoleil.com

July 6-9 - National Women's Music Festival (Illinois) www.wiaonline.org/

Aug 8 - 13 - Michigan Womyns festival (W. Michigan) www.michfest.com/

August 25-27 - Twin Oaks Women's Gathering (Louisa VA) <http://twinoaks.org/community/women/index.html>

August 17-20 - Old Lesbians Gathering for Change (Durham NC) www.oloc.org/Gathering_page.html

Sep 1-4 - Wild Western Women's Weekend (Virginia) www.campoutva.com/

Sep 8-10 Sisterspace weekend (Darlington MD) www.sisterspace.org/

Sept 16 Ohio Lesbian Festival (near Kirkersville OH) from 11 AM - 11 PM www.ohiolba.org/

Summer Places & Events

Campgrounds

If you have any questions at all about their target clientele, make certain to call ahead. For more camping info, visit <http://gaycampers.com/campgrounds>

Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Road, Boyers, PA 16020 (724) 637-2402. Men and women. CampD@aol.com
www.campdaviscampground.com

CampOut. For women. Near Richmond VA.
www.campoutva.com/

Cedars Campground. Near Hamilton ON "Proudly serving the GLBT community since 1984."
www.cedarscampground.com/

Circle JJ Ranch, Scio, OH circlejkranch@voyager.net
www.circlejkranch.com

Gay Outdoors www.gayoutdoors.org/

Jones Pond Campground & RV Park Angelica, NY. For men. www.jonespond.com

Rainbow Ridge Close to Toronto.
www.geocities.com/rainbowridgeresort/

Roseland Guest House and Campground, West Virginia www.rcvideo.com/roseland. Caters to men.

The Point Tent & Trailer Resort Turkey Point, Ontario. "The Point has become a gay male resort with some Women Welcome Weekends." www.get-tothepoint.com/

Sports

For more on gay sports go to www.gaysports.com/
May 23-29 - Bingham Cup 2006 NYC.
www.binghamcup.com

Jun 9-11 - Cleveland GIFT Tournament <http://www.clevelandgift.org/>

Jul 15-22 - Gay Games VII 2006. In Chicago. <http://www.gaygameschicago.org/>

Jul 26- Aug 5 - 1st World OutGames. In Montreal
http://www.montreal2006.org/en_the_games_in_short.html

Kids & Families

Most of the destinations listed in this article have space or events for kids and families, but below are some places and events specifically for them.

COLAGE www.colage.org/

Family Pride Coalition www.familypride.org/ (click on "Events")

Mountain Meadow Camp (S. New Jersey)
www.mountainmeadow.org/

Philadelphia Family Pride (Philadelphia)
www.phillyfamilypride.org

R Family Vacations www.rfamilyvacations.com/

US-Canada Border Crossing Info

Visit Toronto Tourism <http://www.torontotourism.com/Visitor/TOEssentials/BordersCustoms.htm>



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Find us at gay-friendly stores like
Body Language, Cleveland 216-251-3330
Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo 716-855-0222
and many others at <http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For an application to be listed (no charge), current
editions and prices, mailing labels, etc., please send a
self-addressed stamped envelope
to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN,
Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263
or email gayellowpages@earthlink.net

<http://gayellowpages.com>

Info for visitors to Erie

Contact Visit Erie PA 1-800-524-ERIE (3743)
www.visiteriepa.com/

National News Briefs

by Bob

Swann Backs Anti-Gay Amendment

Former Pittsburgh Steeler Lynn Swann, the Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, said he fully supports efforts to amend the state Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Swann made his comments March 31, at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Leadership Council, a coalition of business and conservative social-issue advocacy groups. The remark was made in response to a question from the audience.

In addition to his career with the Steelers, Swann is a former college football TV analyst and has never held public office. He is challenging Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell in the November general election.

Ford Shareholders to Vote on Equal Employment

It will be up to Ford Motor Co. shareholders to decide if the company will be forced to amend its equal employment policy to exclude sexual orientation. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recently denied Ford's request to keep the issue off its proxy statement.

Ford's policy now says the company won't discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, religion and other factors. But a Ford shareholder, Robert Hurley of Alton, Ill., submitted a proposal calling on Ford to change its policy to exclude all references to sexual interests, activities or orientation.

In an effort to keep Hurley's proposal off the proxy statement, Ford asked the SEC to exclude it, saying the proposal would hurt the company's ability to recruit employees since some universities require companies that recruit on campus to include sexual

orientation in their antidiscrimination policies. Ford also claimed that the policy change could hurt sales to gay rights supporters.

The SEC however, said Ford can't exclude the proposal because the SEC rule that allows companies to reject proposals that deal with "ordinary business operations" doesn't apply to this case.

Ford shareholders are currently voting on the proposal and the results will be announced at the company's annual meeting May 11.

Virginia Governor Opposes Marriage Amendment

The new Governor of Virginia is calling on the state's citizens to vote against a proposed antigay marriage amendment to Virginia's constitution — a measure he refused to sign.

Democrat Timothy Kaine, who took office in January, doesn't have the power to stop the amendment or change its language, but he refused to endorse the legislation that puts the issue on the November ballot, the *Washington Post* reported.

Kaine said he supports Virginia's current law which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, but thinks the amendment may have unintended consequences.

In a prepared statement, the Governor said the amendment is "threatening the constitutional rights of individuals to enter into private contracts, and also threatening the discretion of employers to extend certain benefits, such as health care coverage, to unmarried couples."

"I will vote against the marriage amendment in November, and I urge other Virginians to vote against it as well," Kaine said.

The antigay marriage amendment, which was passed by the legislature in February and will go to voters on Nov. 7, reads: "This commonwealth 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 effects of marriage. Nor shall this commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities or effects of marriage."

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National News

University Expels Student for Being Gay

A sophomore at the University of the Cumberland has been expelled because he revealed he is gay on his MySpace.com page.

A spokesperson for the Williamsburg, KY, college confirmed that Jason Johnson, 20, was expelled from the Baptist school for violating a university policy that states: "Any student who engages in or promotes sexual behavior not consistent with Christian principles (including sex outside marriage and homosexuality) may be suspended or asked to withdraw from the University of the Cumberlands."

"Everybody on campus is extremely upset about this," Jennifer Roberts, a Cumberlands senior, told a local newspaper. Roberts, who told the paper she is a close friend of Johnson, described him as honest and trustworthy.

"I would consider Jason a Christian because so many of his values are Christian," she said. "He embodies everything a friend should be. A lot of people are suffering because he is not here."

In a written statement, university President Jim Taylor said, "We are different by design, and are nonapologetic about our Christian beliefs."

"Brokeback Mountain" Gets Prison Guard in Trouble

A corrections officer at Massachusetts' largest prison faces disciplinary action for showing the movie "Brokeback Mountain" to inmates.

According to Diane Wiffin, spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Department of Correction, the officer had not followed the standard procedure of pre-screening the movie for excessive violence, assaults on correctional staff, nudity or explicit sexual content. Neither the officer's name nor the type of discipline he might face was revealed.

"I want to make it clear, it wasn't the subject matter — it was the graphic nature of the sexually explicit scenes," Wiffin said.

The movie was shown at MCI-Norfolk, a medium-security prison about 25 miles southwest of

Boston. According to Wiffin, a deputy supervisor at the prison came in as the movie was showing and asked the officer if he had screened it first. He said no, but since only 20 minutes remained of the movie, the inmates were allowed to see the end.

Bush Names Anti-Gay Minister to AIDS Council

President George Bush has named a conservative Baptist minister who advocates a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Herbert Lusk, a former professional football player and current pastor of the Exodus Baptist Church in Philadelphia, has no background in HIV/AIDS policy. He is the founder of People for People, a social services agency in Philadelphia which helps the poor through education and training programs.

People for People receives about \$10 million a year in government funds, with at least \$1 million a year coming from federal, faith-based grants. Bush visited Lusk's Philadelphia church twice during the past five years.

Lusk recently served as host of Justice Sunday III, a Religious Right rally viewed by hundreds of thousands of conservative Christians through a live television hookup, and featured Dr. James Dobson of the anti-gay Focus on the Family.

Even more dismaying for LGBT activists is Lusk's role as an adviser to the Alliance for Marriage, a conservative religious organization that lobbies lawmakers to support a U.S. constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

"It is difficult to understand how Bush can appoint someone with such vocal intolerance into a position like this," Thom Lynch, executive director of the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Center, said. "Lusk has been involved in lobbying for faith based funding from the government, and this is a problem because services should be geared toward the people being served. Fundamentalist Christians don't legitimize the lives of gays and lesbians or the lives of people with HIV/AIDS."

AIDS Vaccines – Will they get here in time?

Patty Puline, ECDH

It's been 25 years, and we still don't have an AIDS vaccine. But now, hope springs eternal from across the globe.

China reports that the human AIDS vaccine trials are working effectively on each of the 49 volunteers who were injected, stating that patients enrolled in the clinical trials are “*in good health and show no ill effects, clinical observation has shown.*”

Experts have been following these trials, and a panel will assess the trial outcomes and make a decision about the second phase of the AIDS vaccine trials this June. Consideration will be given to dosing, safety and efficacy of the AIDS vaccine.

Phase I was launched in Nanning, capital of Guangxi, on March 12, 2005, and each of the 49 Chinese volunteers received vaccine. Volunteers range in ages between 18-50, of which six groups received a single AIDS vaccine, and two groups were injected with a combination vaccine. During the projected Phase II, volunteers will be recruited from larger groups, especially from high-risk groups.

To put this in perspective, the United States has 1,000,000 documented AIDS cases, while China has 650,000 HIV infected, of which 75,000 are diagnosed with AIDS, according to WHO estimates. If China succeeds with their vaccine, it would be good news for the world of medicine.

Good news from Uganda – they have already entered Phase II of the AIDS vaccine trials, and this will be preventive, in that it will prevent HIV infection for seronegative people. Phase I was completed in Europe in 2004.

Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Targeted Genetics Corporation are backing the project. South Africa is conducting similar trials at three other centers.

“We are pleased that Uganda continues to play a leading role in the testing of promising HIV vaccine,” said principal investigator, Dr. Pontiano Kaleebu. “A vaccine is the world's best hope to end the spread of a disease that infects 14,000 men, women and children worldwide every day,” he added.

Since two thirds of the world's AIDS cases are in Sub-Saharan Africa, and since the Ugandan government is supportive, Uganda is a rich scientific environment for these HIV/ AIDS vaccine research and clinical trials.

For years, Uganda has been promoting HIV messages for safer sex, and harm reduction. They initiated a targeted HIV/AIDS awareness and health promotion campaign several years ago for the truck drivers in the region who had been known to frequent prostitutes. This campaign met with support and acted as a model for health promotion. It is encouraging that they are setting model standards for vaccine trials as well.

Although this is considered a minor clinical trial, it will take approximately 18 months to complete and will enroll 78 volunteers at five sites. No stranger to AIDS research and vaccines, Uganda was home to the first HIV vaccine trial in Africa in 1999, in Mengo.

What does this mean for us in the United States? Simply put, if these vaccine trials continue through the phases, we may see an effective worldwide vaccine by 2010; and that would be quite an accomplishment. It would also meet one of the Healthy People 2010 goals, which is to reduce HIV infection across the globe.

Years of research by noted HIV scientists such as Montagnier, Fauci and Gallo, have provided advances in the science and biology of HIV, the behavior of the virus, yet have not yielded a universal vaccine.

These latest trials provide hope for those languishing within the affected and infected HIV populations around the world, and for the future. Let's hope they get here in time.

Patty Puline is a contributing editor to Erie Gay News, and is in the HIV/AIDS Education and Training Department at the Erie County Department of Health. She can be reached at ppuline@ecdh.org.

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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 - 3:00 pm

THURSDAY
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

HIV & STD CLINIC 451-6700

Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department

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

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

All services are free and confidential. Erie Gay News - May 2006
Specially trained outreach workers are available for in home appointments, (HIV testing only).

Candidate Survey - State representatives

Erie Gay News sent out a candidate survey to a number of area candidates for the Pennsylvania State House. For those that responded, we have reprinted their responses as we received them. Where relevant, we have included other information for current office holders.

PA House District 1

1. Do you favor amending the Pennsylvania constitution to ban same-sex marriages in the Commonwealth?

Patrick J Harkins (D) Would need more info.

Dennis Iaquina (D) No - we need less government in control in our personal lines.

2. Do you support the concept of Civil Unions for same-sex couples in Pennsylvania? Would you support legislation making Civil Unions legal, granting same-sex couples all of the same legal rights as heterosexual couples?

Patrick J Harkins (D) Would need more info.

Dennis Iaquina (D) There is too much government and too many laws already and we need to align them with present-day issues without creating new laws.

3. Should gays and lesbians, either as couples or individually, be allowed to adopt children in Pennsylvania and serve as foster parents?

Patrick J Harkins (D) Yes.

Dennis Iaquina (D) The question should be what is in the best interest of the child. Your organization needs to take out labels such as a, lesbian, heterosexual to the best qualified person to be able to serve as parents.

4. Would you support the passage of laws protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination statewide when it comes to employment, housing, sexual harassment, education, access to public services, etc.?

Patrick J Harkins (D) Yes.

Dennis Iaquina (D) Once again take away the labels as in question number three. Have the person apply and then why should sexual preference come into the question?

5. As an elected legislator, would you be willing to hire qualified, gays or lesbians to work on your staff?

Patrick J Harkins (D) Yes.

Dennis Iaquina (D) Have hired in the past even before being elected official. Qualification calms the first always.

Not responding from District 1:

Michael Skrzypczak (D); Christine E Pontoriero (R)

PA House District 2

Not responding from District 2:

Flo Fabrizio (D)

Flo Fabrizio, who is on the House Judiciary Committee, voted NO on moving HB 2381, the so-called Marriage Protection Amendment, out of committee. (In other words, he voted *against* this antigay bill).

PA House District 3

1. Do you favor amending the Pennsylvania constitution to ban same-sex marriages in the Commonwealth?

Ebert Beeman (D) No.

2. Do you support the concept of Civil Unions for same-sex couples in Pennsylvania? Would you support legislation making Civil Unions legal, granting same-sex couples all of the same legal rights as heterosexual couples?

Ebert Beeman (D) Yes.

3. Should gays and lesbians, either as couples or individually, be allowed to adopt children in Pennsylvania and serve as foster parents?

Ebert Beeman (D) Yes.

4. Would you support the passage of laws protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination statewide when it comes to employment, housing, sexual harassment, education, access to public services, etc.?

Ebert Beeman (D) Public services? Absolutely; contracts between gays and lesbians and PRIVATE individuals are none of the government's business. .

5. As an elected legislator, would you be willing to hire qualified, gays or lesbians to work on your staff?

Ebert Beeman (D) Yes, but not because they're gay or lesbian, but because they are capable of doing the job well. .

Candidate Survey - State representatives

Not responding from District 3:

John Hornaman (D); Matthew Good (R); Dallas J Rearic Jr (R); Dave Dows (R)

Dallas Rearic when called said that he didn't know when he would get it out and the caller felt Dallas was possibly hostile and seemed anxious to get off the phone.

PA House District 4

Not responding:

Curt Sonney (R)

Curt Sonney has signed on as a co-sponsor on the PA Marriage Protection Amendment. Although he has met and talked with GLBT people and their supporters, he has still signed on to this antigay legislation. In 2 subsequent meetings after signing on as a co-sponsor, he indicated that he was reconsidering being a sponsor. Sonney told one person that he met with that he had been unaware that allowing civil unions after passing the PA Marriage Protection Amendment would require a separate constitutional amendment. Sonney was not pushing for civil unions, but seemed to feel that he didn't want to oppose them via a constitutional amendment.

PA House District 5

1. Do you favor amending the Pennsylvania constitution to ban same-sex marriages in the Commonwealth?

Jason White (D) I do not favor amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to ban same sex marriage.

2. Do you support the concept of Civil Unions for same-sex couples in Pennsylvania? Would you support legislation making Civil Unions legal, granting same-sex couples all of the same legal rights as heterosexual couples?

Jason White (D) I do support the concept of civil unions would support such legislation.

3. Should gays and lesbians, either as couples or individually, be allowed to adopt children in Pennsylvania and serve as foster parents?

Jason White (D) They should be allowed to adopt and serve as foster parents.

4. Would you support the passage of laws protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination statewide when it comes to employment, hous-

ing, sexual harassment, education, access to public services, etc.?

Jason White (D) I do and will support any action that prevents discrimination in any form.

5. As an elected legislator, would you be willing to hire qualified, gays or lesbians to work on your staff?

Jason White (D) I will hire any person they feel is qualified to fill the position when a person's gay, straight, black, white, man or woman.

Not responding: Clayton Schulze (R); Carol Loll (R); John R Evans (R)

When Clayton Schulze was called about returning the questionnaire, said that he didn't receive the questionnaire. When asked if we would be receiving his questionnaire, he said no. According to the person who called to follow up on the questionnaire: "Clayton Schulze explained to me the way he felt towards the gay community and he said he didn't have a problem with it, but he doesn't see it as a big deal. He said as long as it doesn't interfere with him, then he's fine with it."

PA House District 6

Not responding:

Keith Abbott (D)

Brad Roae (R)

Teresa Forcier (R)

Special Note about Teresa Forcier:

Although incumbent state representative Teresa Forcier did not respond, her record deserves mention because of her energetic efforts to defeat GLBT rights. Forcier's website, for example, notes the representative's apparent glee at voting against same sex marriage rights. "As one of five original cosponsors, Representative Teresa Forcier (R-Crawford) said today that she is greatly looking forward to the state House's forthcoming vote on the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment." Her website provides numerous links for taking action on the antigay Marriage Protection Amendment. Browse to <http://www.teresaforcier.com/>

SATURDAY
MAY 6th

HEAVEN ZONE

Spring
WHITE Party!

DANCE CLUB ★ ERIE, PA

*Wear White or
Dress like an
Angel!*

*Join Us on CLOUD 9 for one of the
BIGGEST PARTIES of the SEASON!*

EROTICA

LEVIS • LEATHER • FETISH

SATURDAY
MAY 20th

**PARTY! NO
NUDITY!**

**WEAR
BLACK!**

or Dress in Levis, Leather, Military
Gear, Boots, Boxers, Slave Boy,
Daddy, Dominatrix Diva or Porn Star!

SHOW OFF YOUR TATTOOS & PIERCINGS!

Celebrate your Sexuality!

FRIDAY MAY 5

**CINCO DE
MAYO PARTY!**

*Fiesta the night away!
Try Our NEW Frozen
Margaritas or Daiquiris!*

SATURDAY MAY 6

**HEAVEN SPRING
WHITE PARTY!**

Wear White!

SATURDAY MAY 20

EROTICA

**Leather Levi Fetish Party!
Celebrate Your Sexuality!**

SUNDAY MAY 28

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TO THE

Pittsburgh Gay Picnic

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Tickets Available at the Bar!*

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