

EGN

Erie Gay News

Some Positive Primary Election Results

by Bob

Low voter turnouts and new touch-screen voting machines seemed to dominate the news following the May 16 primary election, but for the local GLBT community, the results produced some optimistic results.

Rep. Teresa Forcier of Crawford County, an extreme right-wing Republican who has proudly supported anti-gay measures in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, was defeated in the GOP primary by newcomer Brad Roae. Although Roae did not respond to the Erie Gay News (EGN) candidate ques-

tionnaire, it is hard to imagine he could be worse than Forcier. Roae will face Democrat Keith Abbott in the fall.

In Erie's First Legislative District, the three-candidate Democratic race to replace GLBT-friendly Linda Bebko-Jones was won by Pat Harkins. Harkins responded to the EGN candidate survey and provided relatively positive answers, although he was vague about marriage and civil union issues. He will face Republican Christine Pontoriero in November. She did not respond to the EGN survey.

Democrat Dennis Iaquina, one of Harkins' opponents, ran a disturbing ad in the Sunday *Erie Times-News* prior to the election which indicated he would not support same-sex marriage or civil unions.

Incumbent Republican Matthew Good of Millcreek, who has been supportive of GLBT issues, won the GOP primary in the Third District. He will face Republican-turned-Democrat John Hornaman in November. Hornaman did not respond to the EGN candidate questionnaire. Also on the November ballot will be Green Party candidate Tim Reim, who is supportive of GLBT issues.

Republican incumbent John Evans, who has been somewhat supportive of GLBT issues, survived a primary challenge in the Fifth District. Evans will face Democrat Jason White in the fall. White gave some very positive responses to the EGN candidate survey.

Democrat Flo Fabrizio had no opponents in the Second District from either party. He didn't respond to the EGN questionnaire, but in the past, has been quite supportive of GLBT issues.

Republican Curt Sonney also had no opposition in either party in the Fourth District. Unfortunately, as a sponsor of the proposed anti-marriage amendment to the state constitution, Sonney does not appear to be a friend of the GLBT community.

More Community News inside!

Liberty PA visits Erie



Paul McKrell and Renee Gilinger from Liberty PA met with activists in Erie on May 2. Liberty PA is a state-wide GLBT rights organization. Paul is Pittsburgh Field Organizer for Liberty PA and Renee is the State Director.

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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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On the cover: Paul McKrell and Renee Gilinger from Liberty PA met with activists in Erie on May 2. Liberty PA is a statewide GLBT rights organization. Paul is Pittsburgh Field Organizer for Liberty PA and Renee is the State Director.

EGN Erie Gay News 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 HIRES.

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DURING A
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Community News

(continued from front page)

Employment seminar hosted by HRC, EEOC and OSHA

The Erie County Human Relations Commission, OSHA and Equal Opportunity Commission on June 28. It will be held at the Bel-Air Hotel from 9 AM to 4 PM. It will be geared to employers and employees. A continental breakfast will be served. For details contact the Erie County Human Relations Commission at the Renaissance Center, 1001 State Street, Room 322, Erie PA. Phone: 451-7065, 451-7064, or 451-7021.

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

NWPA NOW presents marriage film

On Sunday, June 25 the Northwestern PA. National Organization for Women presents the film "Tying the Knot: The Union That's Dividing America". Tying the Knot digs deep into the past and present to uncover the meaning of marriage today, focusing on rights, privilege, and the law. The film examines who want to marry and those determined to stop them. A discussion will follow the showing of the film. Admission is free. The film and discussion will take place in the Admiral Room, Blasco Public Library, 160 E Front St, Erie, PA 2 - 4 PM. Contact: Judy Dauson. Email: dausonjls@yahoo.com. Browse to <http://www.edinboro.com/nwpanow>.

Erie Pride Picnic on June 10

from the Pride Picnic Committee

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. PLEASE NOTE! We usually get too many bags of chips brought. We end up taking these to the food bank. Please consider picking up something from the deli. (At one point before serving last year, it looked like we were just going to have hot dogs, hamburgers and chips. Fortunately, folks arriving later brought a wider variety of food choices.)

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>. It is very helpful if you can register online, so we have an idea of volunteers and attendees. You can also call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833.

Wine tour in WNY

The 10% Network in Jamestown will be having the First Annual Gay and Lesbian Wine Tour —The Finger Lakes Wine Tour on Saturday, June 17. The tour begins at Bully Hill with lunch at Belhearst Castle and a visit to their winery. The last winery on our tour will be Swedish Hill. Departure: from Jamestown NY Park & Ride at 7 AM sharp!! Cost: \$50 per person and includes bus fare, wine tastings at all three wineries



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Community News

and lunch buffet. Contact: Wayne Carlsson at 716-640-6046. Mail checks payable to Wayne Carlsson at 60 West Fairmount Ave., Lakewood in NY 14750. Checks must be received by no later than Thursday, June 1, 2006 to reserve your seat. Seating is limited. Please include contact information with check. Contact: Wayne Carlsson. (716) 640-6046. jtown-admin@eriegaynews.com. <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

National Stonewall Democrats Convention in Pittsburgh June 2-4

Pittsburgh will be host to the National Stonewall Democrats Convention this year. The convention will take place June 2-4, 2006. Keynote Speakers will be DNC Chairman Governor Howard Dean and Governor Ed Rendell. There will be workshops, trainings and social activities. To register you can visit the Steel City Democrats website at www.steelcity.org/

The National Stonewall Democrats is a grassroots network connecting LGBT Democratic activists across the United States, with more than 90 chapters across the country. Browse to <http://www.stonewalldemocrats.org/>

PFLAG Erie & Crawford Co. news

by Mark H, President PFLAG Erie & Crawford Co.

We are proud to share that we found a computer resource person, Mike H., who volunteered to help us with a computerized database/card catalog.

We will be selling new PFLAG LOGO bracelets as part of our annual fundraiser capital campaign. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties will be attending the Gay Pride Picnic on June 10 and have an information table with resources and literature. All educational, support and advocacy materials are free of charge to anyone.

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

OBITUARY

Jo "Johanna" Adams



Jo "Johanna" Adams, 58, passed away peacefully at her residence on April 26, after a long battle with cancer. Her beloved partner of 25 years, Annie Wisniewski, and dear friends and family were at her side. She was born in Johnsonburg, PA, on March 16, 1948, and lived in Los Angeles, CA as well as Erie. She worked for Penelec for 28 years.

Jo was the favorite "Aunt Jo" to so many; and was a true woman of grace, whose presence warmed our hearts, enriched our lives and will live within us for always. Her zest for life was composed of so many things—the Cleveland Rockers and the Browns, travel and photography, women's basketball and of course, the casinos. But her real zeal was for her family and friends. She adored her many nieces and nephews, treasured her brothers and sisters and relished in time spent with her friends who were her family as well.

Known for her generous heart and loving spirit, Jo had a smile that filled a room with joy. When she walked into a room it came alive, not because she was the entertainer, the center of attention, but because she truly loved interacting with people, talking and sharing and laughing. She was a most loyal friend who was loved by all she touched. She was not just an aunt or our sister or even just a friend, she was everyone's special friend, their best friend.

Jo passed away much as she lived her life, with dignity and grace. She was not alone in death, with so many friends and family members at her side, as she was not alone in life —of which she used to say, "Life is short; go ahead and eat the ice cream cone!"

To sign Johanna's online guestbook, visit <http://www.legacy.com/ErieTimesNews/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=17552521>

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YOUTH

A Hush Fell Over the Halls of McDowell High School on April 26

by *Michael R. Komo*

On Wednesday, April 26, over 250 students at McDowell High School took a vow of silence. These students were participating in the National Day of Silence. The individuals who partook in this event were silent from the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day.

The Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment — in effect, the silencing — experienced by LGBT students and their allies.

I, along with a few other students, organized the event at McDowell. My original goal was to get 200 students registered for it. I was pleasantly surprised to see that over 250 individuals (grades nine through twelve) signed up for the Day of Silence. My goal for 2007 is to get 300 students registered for the event.

There were many students who support LGBT rights but chose not to participate in the event. Some had scheduled presentations that they could not reschedule. Others had to teach lessons at elementary schools that day. However, they gave their full support for those of us who did participate.

The event was quite a success. For the most part, the students not participating respected those individuals who were. Teachers and faculty members commended our efforts. There was minimal opposition to this event, as there is with many things. However, doing the right thing is not always easy. We kept that in mind and held our heads high that day.

Looking for
Pride Events?

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ERIE PRIDE

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2006

Saturday, June 10, 2006

At Presque Isle

1PM to 6PM

Food Served From

2PM to 5PM

Family Portrait at 4PM

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Full kitchen

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

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



For more information call:

814-456-9833



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

State law prohibits alcohol at the Park.

Calendar

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

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 parties! 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 - Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival South Park Fairgrounds. <http://memorialdayfestival.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 available 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>.

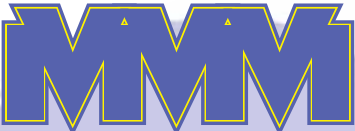
May 26 - 29 - Memorial Day Weekend at Club Queen (Warren OH) 1977 Ridge Ave, SE Warren OH (330) 395-0111 For events descriptions visit www.royale-hearts.com/news.html

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." Con-

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Calendar

tact: 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! " (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

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.trancedanceclub.com>.

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 10 - 18th Annual GIFT Cruise (Cleveland). Benefits the Cleveland LGBT Center Info at www.clevelandgift.org, (216) 749-2152.

Jun 11 - SHOUT Outreach & Trance's Casino Night fundraiser for Erie Pride, Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Blackjack, roulette, chuck a luck and the "big wheel". More details coming. Details about the Erie Pride Weekend are at <http://eriepride.eriegaynews.com>. Contact: Lee.



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Pride Month Programming

If you want to catch all the Pride Month programming on TV, check out the TV Gay Guide at **Queery.com** www.queery.com/tvgayguide/

Western NY viewers can check out the Pride Month programming on Buffalo's PBS affiliate **WNED** (which is partnered with Toronto) is pretty impressive. Schedule at the WNED website: www.thinkbright.wned.org/search/viewResource.asp?contentid=4341



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Calendar

Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 14 - Guelcher Film Series: "TransAmerica" at: Mercyhurst College, Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center 501 East 38th St., Erie, PA (814) 824-2000. 2 & 8 PM. www.transamerica-movie.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 www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 17 - Full Moon Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Unleash the wild child inside. Come howl at the moon with your fellow children of the night. Drop'em & Drink Special. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 17 - First Annual Gay and Lesbian Wine Tour (10% Network, Jamestown, NY) 7 AM. The Finger Lakes Wine Tour. Details front page. Contact: Wayne Carlsson. Phone: 716-640-6046. Email: jtown-admin@eriegaynews.com. Browse to http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/.

Jun 17 - Birds and Bees Underwear Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Find out what your mother never told you about the Birds and the Bees! Spring has sprung and its time to strip out of that cocoon and spread your wings! Wear FUN boxers, Sexy lingerie, Cute Pajamas or come dressed as a butterfly or bumblebee! Join your friends and fireflies as we dance the night away in our Secret Garden! How BIG does your garden grow? Fly into the Zone to see! Another great Original Zone Party! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jun 18 - Gay Day at Cedar Point, unofficial, unsponsored event. Wear red or rainbow colors,



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Calendar

www.firelandspride.org, <http://ajw.freeshell.org/sanduskygaypride>.

Jun 20 - Night of Comedy at Trance Dance Club with the Nonsense Players Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 10 PM. Skits, Stand-Up and Improvisational Comedy all in one hour! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 24 - "Beach Blanket Bingo" night at Two Friends Italian Market 10th & French Streets, Erie. Music by 2 Girls Alone. 8-10 PM Join the band and Friends in this kickoff of a great summer. BYOB (beachwear as well as legal beverages.) Prize for best bikini, pizza special for swimsuit wearers. For a pizza coupon and/or more info, email twogirlsalone@att.net.

Jun 24 - Hawaiian Luau at Youngstown Pride Center First Unitarian Church 1105 Elm St. Young-

stown OH 6-10 PM. Chicken and side dishes will be provided. DJ. Donations gladly accepted. Ticket-bar. (330) 747-7433 www.angelfire.com/oh5/youngstownpride youngstownpride@hotmail.com

Jun 25 - Film: 'Tying the Knot: The Union That's Dividing America' Admiral Room, Blasco Public Library, 160 E Front St, Erie, PA. 2 - 4 PM. Presented by Northwestern PA. National Organization for Women. Admission is free. Details in "Community News" Info: Judy Dauson. : dausonjls@yahoo.com. www.edinboro.com/nwpanow.

Jun 26 - Summer Splash at Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Summer is here and it's time to show off that tan and tan line. Surfer boys, Surfer Girls, hunks in trunks and babes in bikinis. Wear your sexiest beach gear and work up a little summer sweat. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jul 1 - Indepen-Dance Daze! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Celebrate the good ole' USA at the Zone's 8th annual Independence Day Party! Wear Red, White or Blue! Dress as Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty or wear fun patriotic boxers! Parade on in and Dance under the fireworks on the dancefloor as we light up the night! American Pride! - Gay FUN! Get into your Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Jul 1 - Starz & Barz Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Show off your patriotic pride and wear old school red, white and blue. Come as Uncle Sam, Miss Liberty or Betsy Ross if you got the stripes for it. Whether you're a rear admiral or just a grunt, dust off and show up in your uniform! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jul 2 - Pittsburgh Boat Cruise Station Square, 1 Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA. 4:30 PM - 9 PM. Boarding time is 4:30 PM til 5 PM. Leaves at 5 PM, docks at 8:30. Party til 9 PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance. Available at the Zone, 133 W 18th St, and all Pittsburgh area bars. Tickets (if available!) are \$25 at the boat. Phone: (412) 355-7980. Browse to <http://www.stationsquare.com>.

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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.

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as Charlotte Hollis

JEFF ROLLARD
as Miriam Deering

MICHAEL WEISS
as Dr. Drew Bayliss

and
BARB SAMBROAK
as Velma Carruthers

On stage

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

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

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

Jun 10-11 North Coast Gay Men's Chorus: "The Colors of Our Lives" In Cleveland OH. www.ncmchorus.org.

Jun 16-17 - Margaret Cho at The Improv in Homestead PA, (412) 462-5233. 21 & over.

Jun 19 - Ani DiFranco in Pittsburgh at Rex Theatre. www.righteousbabe.com/

June 24- Ember Swift in Buffalo, NY at Nietzsche's www.nietzsches.com/

Jun 23-24 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "Let Us Entertain You" at Rockwell Center, Buffalo State College www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/

Jun 29-Jul 1 - Cirque du Soleil "Delirium" Pittsburgh, Mellon Arena www.cirquedusoleil.com

Jul 6 - Aug 5 - "Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte" at Directors Circle Theatre, Renaissance Centre, Erie PA.

Jul 6 - 7 - Johnny Mathis in Pittsburgh, Heinz Hall.

Jul 10 - Melissa Etheridge in Cleveland, Allen Theatre/PlayhouseSquare. www.melissaetheridge.com/concerts/

Jul 12 - Pink in Cleveland OH at House of Blues www.hob.com/

Jul 22 - Dixie Chicks in Pittsburgh at Mellon Arena www.dixiechicks.com and www.mellonarena.com/

Jul 27 - Joan Jett & the Blackhearts "Vans Warped Tour" Burgettstown PA at Post-Gazette Pavilion <http://www.post-gazettepavilion.com>

Aug 1 - Joan Jett & the Blackhearts "Vans Warped Tour" Darien Lake NY at Darien Center www.darienlakeconcerts.com

Aug 4-5 - Cirque du Soleil "Delirium" Cleveland, OH Quicken Loans Arena 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.*

Regularly meeting

Always Our Children Jun 7, Jul 5, Aug 2 Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) Jun 5 & 19 Unitarian-Universalist Parish House, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA. 7 - 9 PM. Phone: (814) 724-1832. Email: bykota@eriegaynews.com.

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

Equality PA (Southwest Region) Jun 28, Jul 26, Aug 23 Ginger Hill UU Congregation, 174 S Main St, Slippery Rock, PA. 7 PM. Contact Reid at (724) 735-4407 butlerdiversity@yahoo.com.

Planning meeting for Fall Pride Event Jun 18, Jul 16, Aug 20 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.

Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD) Jun 5, Jul 3, Aug 7 218 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

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14 Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark H pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Phone: John at (814) 454-1392.

Support group for those dealing with loss Jun 13 at 7 PM, Jun 15 at 10 AM, Jul 11 at 7 PM, Jul 20 at 10 AM, Aug 8 at 7 PM, Aug 17 at 10 AM 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.

The Guys at Aroma's Coffeehouse May 31, Jun 21, Jul 12, Aug 2, Aug 23 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>

National News Briefs

by Bob

Schools Can Ban Clothing Slogans

A U.S. appeals court has ruled that public schools can bar clothing with derogatory slogans. The ruling came in a case involving a student who wore a T-shirt to school saying "Homosexuality is shameful."

In the 2-1 decision by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the judges backed a San Diego-area high school that ordered a student to remove a T-shirt with the anti-gay message. School officials were concerned the slogan could raise tensions at the school, where there had been conflict between gay and straight students. The student in question sued, claiming the school's dress code violated his free speech, religious freedom and due process rights.

Writing for the court's majority, Judge Stephen Reinhardt affirmed a lower court's decision against an

injunction against the school and said schools may bar slogans believed to be hurtful.

Students "who may be injured by verbal assaults on the basis of a core identifying characteristic such as race, religion, or sexual orientation, have a right to be free from such attacks while on school campuses," Reinhardt wrote.

"The demeaning of young gay and lesbian students in a school environment is detrimental not only to their psychological health and well-being, but also to their educational development," the judge added.

Judge Alex Kozinski, who sided with the student, wrote that the court's majority would gag campus dissent to Poway (CA) High School's policies.

"The types of speech that could be banned by the school authorities under the Poway High School hate policy are practically without limit. Any speech code that has at its heart avoiding offense to others



This is Laurie Siira, the Office Manager in Erie. She greets all the patients/consumers in person or on the phone. She has been with the Northwest Alliance for almost 5 years.

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural Aids Alliance

"We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania." With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered, please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information.

For more information, contact:

Northwest PA Rural Aids Alliance
1001 State St. Suite 703
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

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

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EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION**

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.

National News

gives anyone with a thin skin a heckler's veto — something the Supreme Court has not approved in the past," Kozinski wrote.

Reinhardt rejected this argument.

"Perhaps our dissenting colleague believes that one can condemn homosexuality without condemning homosexuals. If so, he is wrong. To say that homosexuality is shameful is to say, necessarily, that gays and lesbians are shameful," Reinhardt wrote.

"There are numerous locations and opportunities available to those who wish to advance such an argument. It is not necessary to do so by directly condemning, to their faces, young students trying to obtain a fair and full education in our public schools," Reinhardt added.

Massachusetts Postpones Constitutional Convention

Lawmakers in Massachusetts will wait until July to consider several proposed amendments to the state's Constitution, including making health care access a right and outlawing gay marriage.

Robert Travaglini, president of the Massachusetts State Senate said that the constitutional convention scheduled to begin in May would be postponed because the Senate is currently preparing its budget and advancing "other important initiatives."

"It would be prudent to postpone the constitutional convention until a later date in July," he said in a statement.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is currently reviewing a lawsuit by gay marriage activists that could make the proposed gay marriage constitutional amendment moot.

The amendment to be considered at the constitutional convention would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. However, gay marriage supporters argue that such an amendment would violate the state constitution, which bars any citizen-initiated amendment that seeks to reverse a judicial ruling.

The current lawsuit is being heard by the same court that in a landmark 2003 ruling, cleared the way for same-sex marriages to begin in Massachusetts. More than 7,000 gay couples have married in the state since gay marriages became legal in May 2004.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Suit Filed Again

The Log Cabin Republicans have refiled their federal challenge to "don't ask, don't tell," one month after a California federal judge ruled that the group lacked standing to sue on behalf of unnamed members.

The gay Republican political group named former Army intelligence officer Alex Nicholson as its new plaintiff, along with other anonymous Log Cabin members, described as "John Does," who are still serving in the armed forces. Last month, a California federal judge dismissed the group's challenge to the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on technical grounds.

The challenge, filed by the Log Cabin Republicans in October 2004, had originally been lodged on behalf of unnamed members of the Log Cabin group, who had either served or were currently serving in the armed forces. In his ruling, Judge George Schiavelli said the group did not have standing to sue as an asso-

(continued on next page)

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National News

(continued from previous page)

ciation unless it could prove that one or more of its members had standing to sue as individuals. Since the Log Cabin Republicans declined to name anyone affected by the ban on open gay service, that test had not been met, Schiavelli wrote.

In his ruling however, Schiavelli gave the Log Cabin Republicans an extension to refile the suit on behalf of specific, named individuals.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund has also filed a suit challenging “don’t ask, don’t tell.” That suit, *Cook v. Rumsfeld*, was argued in federal court in Boston last summer and is awaiting a ruling. Regardless of the outcome, this case involving 12 former service members is expected to proceed to the U.S. Court of Appeals and a possible petition to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Both lawsuits are the first challenges to the military’s anti-gay policy since the Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which struck down a key legal support for “don’t ask, don’t tell” by ruling that governments could not criminalize private noncommercial sex between consenting adults. Prior to *Lawrence*, government lawyers could point out that the military was justified in setting limits on an activity that was classified as a felony in several states.

Proposed Moscow Pride Parade in Danger

Moscow’s first Gay Pride parade faces an uncertain future after anti-gay protesters hurling eggs and bottles, forced a Moscow nightclub to cancel a major gay and lesbian party.

Organizers were hoping to attract about 1,000 people to the Renaissance Event Club’s “Open Party” but participants arriving for the event were met by a crowd of at least 100 skinheads, nationalists and elderly religious protesters carrying Russian Orthodox icons and crosses. When the protest turned violent, police had to be called in to quell the disturbance.

The violence came only a few weeks before Moscow’s Pride parade, scheduled for May 27. City authorities have promised to ban the parade, citing the public disorder that might ensue and threats from local Muslim clerics.

Nikolai Alexeyev, one of the chief organizers of the Pride parade, told the BBC that the protest was

a “mass, coordinated action aimed at intimidating Russian gays and lesbians.” Scott Long, director of the LGBT rights program at Human Rights Watch, described the situation for Moscow’s LGBT community as “ominous.”

Until 1993, homosexual acts in Russia were punishable by up to five years in prison.

California Bill Seeks to Rewrite Textbooks

The California State Senate has approved a bill that would require California’s social science textbooks to include the contributions of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people to the state and nation’s history.

The measure passed the Senate 22-15, with no Republican voting for the measure. The bill heads to the California Assembly where opponents vow to fight the measure.

Introduced by Democratic Sen. Sheila Kuehl, the state’s first openly gay legislator, the proposed law would also bar textbooks and other instructional material that portrayed gays in a negative light.

According to Equity California, which helped sponsor the legislation, two out of three gay students are verbally harassed and one in six is physically harassed.

“The invisibility that currently exists (in textbooks) contributes to that,” Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California added.

Other women senators drew parallels to the lack of female or minority role models they saw in history books as children.

Sen. Bill Morrow disputed the comparison. “If you are a black American, you can’t help it, you were born that way,” he said. “There is not one scintilla of credible scientific evidence that suggests that homosexuality is biological in origin..... It is behavioral; it is not racial.”

Sen. Richard Alarcon disagreed. “This is the way ... God made people,” said Alarcon. “Let’s stop trying to hide this reality.”

Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has not taken a position on the bill.

California is the United States’ largest buyer of textbooks, with annual spending topping \$400 million.

“Less than Straights”

by *Caillean Maureen McMahon*
Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Dennis Iaquinta in first district supports marriage ban "Less than Straights"

We are being openly defined as "less than" heterosexual couples by candidates for office. A "mother and a father" is the ideal family group that ought to be promoted by the state in their view.

In the circumstance where a couple divorces, and the custodial parent enters a same sex relationship, the children can be removed if this policy is pursued. The welfare of the child will be defined by the state's overriding policy of children needing a father and a mother.

Gay and Lesbian parents will be just one step away from losing their children. This is not a dark fantasy conjured out of fear; it is the logical outcome of the policy and supported by the fact that in past decades this occurred with alarming regularity.

Many of you cannot imagine these things happening. The older members of the community can remember these things all too well. Our opponents in the 1970's developed a policy and a strategy to take civil rights back to when these things were common, before any gay rights guarantees, before Roe, before Lawrence. They are anti-feminist, anti-gay and anti-dissent.

A mere decade ago anyone who called us diseased, disturbed, or dangerous to society would have been labelled an extremist. Now, even Democrats gingerly support what are reactionary positions tacitly furthering homophobia.

We have become a docile minority. Too many of us expect others to campaign for our rights. We are rapidly becoming inconsequential in politics because so many of us remain silent. We need to be heard; we need to, as gays and lesbians, support those candidates who support us and vocally oppose those candidates who would reduce us to second or third class status. We need to become a force and resource once again.

Gay partnership rights and gay adoptions are the major issues this year. If the reactionaries win the next elections will center around employment rights and protections from violence. How many rights are you willing to lose? Are you prepared to return to the shame and deceit of living in the closet? Unless we, as a community, begin to be heard and loudly, this is the fate that the reactionaries that oppose us intend for us. Read their sermons and literature. As opposed to our community, they have been quite loud and clear about what their idea is for Pennsylvania and for America.

We are not a part of the future as they see it.




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National HIV Testing Campaign

by Shannon McCleary, Intern
Edinboro University

Take the Test!

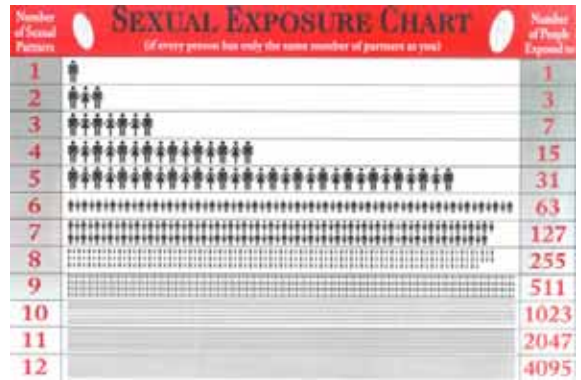
National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) is June 27. The goal of NHTD is to encourage all individuals to receive education, counseling and testing for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The National Association of People with AIDS sponsors this health promotion event.

HIV can be spread through the sharing of needles with someone who is infected with the virus, and may be transmitted to an unborn baby from her infected mother through perinatal transmission or breast milk.

However, the most common way is through unprotected sexual contact with an infected person. During sex, HIV can enter the body through the lining of the vagina, vulva, penis, rectum, or mouth. By engaging in any form of sex, you put yourself at risk for contracting HIV. By not wearing a condom, you put yourself at an even greater risk.

In our country one million people are infected with HIV/AIDS. "In 2004, the largest estimated proportion of HIV/AIDS diagnoses were for men who have sex with men (MSM), followed by adults and adolescents infected through heterosexual contact (www.cdc.gov)."

When you have sex with someone, you have sex with all their partners as well, every sexual contact, every body fluid, every exposure. If your partner has had sex with multiple partners, your chance of contracting HIV or an STD multiplies. For instance, if you have been exposed to three primary partners, you have really been exposed to seven contacts, or seven separate body fluids. You not only need to know the status of the people you are sexually active with, known as primary partners, but also **their** partners, known as secondary and tertiary partners, and identified by health departments as "**contacts**". The number of partners you have determines the number of contacts you have, and helps you to identify your **risk exposure**. Look at the chart to determine your risk exposure by using the number of partners you have had in your



Sexual Exposure Chart demonstrates what happens "if every person has only the same number of partners as you"

lifetime to determine your secondary, and tertiary "**contacts**".

With the extreme number of people infected with HIV today, more than 50 million worldwide, there is extreme importance of protection and early HIV testing. Even if you do not think you have risks, it's better to be safe than sorry. Knowing your HIV status will give you peace of mind! If the thought of being tested scares you, take a friend whom you trust. Remember, HIV testing is free and confidential at the Erie County Department of Health.

On June 27, thousands of people will be tested for HIV. Getting tested is the responsible thing to do if you are sexually active. Take the test. For more information about National HIV Testing Day you can visit www.napwa.org

The Erie County Department of Health will be conducting HIV testing throughout the month of June. For more information, contact Patty Puline at 451-6543 or ppuline@ecdh.org.

Patty Puline will return next month. 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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WEDNESDAY
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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

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Join Us on Our Bed of Roses!

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Join Us After The Picnic
As We Celebrate The Union of

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Sexy Lingerie, Cute Pajamas!

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BED 2

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Silky Pajamas or Bottoms,

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or Just Wear a Sheet if

You Sleep NAKED!

Get into the **ZONE** for a
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