

August 2006



EGN



Erie Gay News

Ashtabula Pride event July 29

by Sue

Get ready for the first annual Ashtabula Pride event!

“Ashtagayla” will be a fun-filled evening of camaraderie, laughter and the celebration of individuality within a “family.” The evening will feature food, drinks, games, door prizes, a 50-50 and entertainment provided by C. Stickle Productions. All persons 18 years of age or older are welcome. Proper ID is required for admission and ticket must be presented at the door.

The event will be held on Saturday, July 29, from 6 PM to 1 AM at 5745 Main Ave., Ashtabula OH (behind D'Itri's Barber Shop).

The cost is \$10 per person, with tickets purchased in advance. Ticket price includes admission, food and two complimentary drink tickets. *We have only 150 tickets available, so we are emphasizing the importance of advance ticket purchase, to ensure we can accommodate those all who attend.*

For tickets, directions or further information, contact Chris at (440) 344-2203 or email Sue at nansu630@hotmail.com

Marching in Millcreek 4th of July Parade

by Michael Mahler

At the invitation of Tim Reim of the Erie Peace and Justice Center, GLBT folks and their supporters were invited to march with the progressive political contingent in the Millcreek 4th of July Parade. The parade typically draws a few thousand observers.

We marched with an Erie Gay News banner, as well as a long rainbow banner. Marching with the GLBT contingent were Michael Mahler, James von Loewe, Eric Rogers, Chris Strayer, Maureen Koseff (the NW PA PFLAG Representative) and Jason Brendell.

Also marching with the progressive political contingent was the Green Party of Erie County. People marching included Corbin Fowler, Green Party member Eric Brozell, and long-time progressive Warren Hohwald

Apart from one rather grumpy man who said “boo” and gave a thumbs down, the crowd was quite accepting and friendly. Quite a few people smiled and

(continued on page 4)



Progressive participants in the July 4 Parade From left: Corbin Fowler, unidentified marcher, Jason, unidentified marcher, Tim Reim, Eric Brozell, Mike Mahler, Maureen Koseff, Eric Rogers, James von Loewe, Chris Strayer, Warren Hohwald, and Larry Sawdy. More photos from the parade can be seen by going to the web version of this article at the Erie Gay News website.

In This Issue...

<i>Calendar</i>	8
<i>On stage</i>	11
<i>Places</i>	11
<i>HIV/AIDS News</i>	13
<i>Michael Dithers</i>	14
<i>Religion & Spirituality</i>	15
<i>Regularly meeting</i>	17
<i>National News Briefs</i>	18
<i>Stop Santorum</i>	21
<i>Pride Picnic pics</i>	22

**WHERE?
CAN YOU FIND
EGN**
Erie Gay News

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

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 HIRRES.

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



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.

Copyright 2006 by Erie Gay News.

Thank You:

To Brian and Larry (who also hosted,) Bob, Brian, James von Loewe, Jack Walburn, Dale, Jeff, Michael R Komo, Mike and Tom for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, John & Paula King, Bob, Brian, Dale, Jeff, Meredith, Brian How, & Dave S for distribution. Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. Bob for proofreading. Thanks! If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

SATURDAY AUGUST 26 TH

SKIN PARTY



Henna Ink
and body
painting available.

SHOW
OFF
YOUR
SKIN!

THE bands

SUNDAY
AUGUST 13 TH
6 PM
featuring

LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

THE bands

SUNDAY
AUGUST 27 TH
6 PM
featuring
LIVE

ENTERTAINMENT

LABOR DAY WEEKEND BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

THE GLOW PARTY BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

HAPPY HOUR 9 til 11 PM - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
COLLEGE ID MONDAYS - KARAOKE THURSDAYS

TRANCE DANCE CLUB
1607 RASPBERRY STREET
ERIE, PA 16502

WWW.TRANCEDANCECLUB.COM



Community News

(continued from front page)

waved back, and Sean Lafferty of WJET TV 24 announced Erie Gay News and the GLBT contingent at the reviewing stand, along with the other groups.

To the best of our knowledge, this was the first time that openly gay folks had marched as a group in a parade other than the Gay Pride March.

More photos of the parade can be viewed at the web version of this article at www.eriegaynews.com

Vertigo Picnic in August

Before Vertigo "officially" starts up again in September, everyone is invited to a picnic Sunday, Aug. 13, at the Steelworkers Shelter in Alameda Park in Butler, PA. The event will run from approximately 1-6 PM (or whenever) with food being ready about 1:30 PM. There is no cover charge.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided and participants are asked to bring a dish to share. Desserts, salads, hot dishes, whatever you'd like will be gratefully appreciated. You should also bring your own beverages. Alcohol is permitted in the park.

Those attending are also invited to bring along games to help add to the festive atmosphere. It's going to be a fun and relaxing get together. For more information, check out the website at www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

Jamestown Picnic with Stonewall Democrats of WNY

by Greg Rabb

Gail Wojtowicz, President of the Stonewall Democrats of Western New York invites you to a picnic on Sunday, July 30, at 4 PM at Greg Rabb's house at 518 Lakeview Avenue in Jamestown. There is no charge to attend and children are welcome.

This is an informal opportunity for the GLBT community of Western New York and our allies to come together to discuss how we can advance our common political agenda especially around issues like gay marriage. If you have any questions/comments, please call Greg on his cell at 716-969-9524 and leave a message.

the LAW Offices of
Joseph Aguglia Esquire
814.455.1802

WILLS & BANKRUPTCY

"A Debt relief agency, helping people file for relief under the bankruptcy code."



Bethany Robson
CPCW LCSW
515 Pine St
Jamestown NY 14701
Phone 716-499-4817
brobson515@msn.com
Now certified in Life coaching as well as licensed in Social Work; advanced specialty in Relationship Coaching.
CALL FOR FREE SAMPLE



ZODIAC
dining
dining on upper State Street

2516 State Street
Erie, PA
814-455-3543

 Open Monday thru Thursday 7AM to 8PM
Friday and Saturday Open 24 Hours
Closing on Sunday at 3PM

Community News

Casino Night Big Success

By Patrick

A little piece of Vegas was alive and well here in Erie on June 11.

SHOUT Outreach and Trance Dance Club sponsored a Casino Night Fundraiser to benefit Erie Pride Inc..

While Frank, Steve and Edie, Dean and Elvis played in the background, gamblers were betting on games like chuck-a-luck, craps, blackjack and the wheel of fortune.

For those not interested in non-stop gambling, Taylor Morgan, Miss Erie 2005 and Rhiannon Angelina, Miss Trance 2006 entertained the crowd with some old and new Vegas standards. Edgy comedienne Jo Hyatt also entertained the crowd with her stand up and a special song she wrote just for the occasion.

Once the gambling was over, the play money auction began. The items that sparked the most interest were a cologne collection, donated by Kaufmann's, and a date with Trance's own W. Mike. At the end of the evening, the event pulled in \$805.



Buddy Dobson and Gary Snyder (in a very becoming chapeau) auctioning off prizes at the Casino Night fundraiser at Trance to raise money for the September 30 Pride March/Rally.

PHOTO: James von Loewe

SHOUT Outreach, Trance Dance Club and Erie Gay Pride wishes to thank the following business and individuals for donating to the Casino Night auction: Total Tan, the Roadhouse Theatre, the Director's Circle Theatre, PFLAG Erie, Two Friends Italian Market, Papa Joe's Pepperoni Café, Chuck & Ginny's, Papermoon, Pizza Hut, TGI Fridays, Smokey Bones BBQ, Kaufmann's, Calamari's, Pie in the Sky Café, J & J Travel Inc., Dawn Ziegler, Erie Hospice, Douglas and James, Joel and W. Mike.

I would like to give a special thanks to all those people to donated their time and energy to make this event such a great event: Lee at Trance, Fran, Malcolm and Lauri from SHOUT Outreach, Dan, Mike Mahler, Jo Hyatt, Taylor Morgan, Rhiannon Angelina, Gary S., Rick B., Preston B., W. Mike, and from Mas Nova Joe and Chris.

Lambda Car Club Plans Outing

by Bob

The Allegheny Region of the Lambda Car Club International is planning a trip to the Canton Classic Car Museum in Canton, OH, on Sunday, July 30.

This museum houses a collection of some 45 interesting and rare antique automobiles, and offers other interesting exhibits as well.

Founded in 1981, the Lambda Car Club is an organization for gay people who have a love of and appreciation for antique automobiles and trucks. The club currently has nearly 2,000 members in 27 regions throughout the United States and Canada. The club's new Allegheny Region, formed last fall, currently has 24 members living in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio.

(continued on next page)

PHOENIX MENSWEAR

Allen Howell Proprietor

www.phoenixmenswear.net

Community News

Anyone interested on more information about the Lambda Car Club may visit its website: www.lambdacarclub.com, email the Allegheny Region at LCCIAlegheny@yahoo.com or call Bob at (814) 456-9643.

If you have an interest in old vehicles, consider belonging to the Lambda Car Club and "join us OUT on the road." You do not have to own an antique vehicle to be a member.

New Jamestown bar opens up

The Sky Bar in Jamestown, NY has just opened. They are at 108 Fairmount Avenue, Jamestown NY. Phone number is (716)661-3212. email address is info@gaybarjamestown.com Browse to www.gaybarjamestown.com

Queen of Hearts moving

The Queen of Hearts will be moving back to downtown Warren, Ohio. They will be closed until mid-August. Updates at www.royale-hearts.com

Kim Mick's art & antiques
unique gifts & treasures

Gallery
foolouse
a CurioJyssey Shop

exotic incense lamps oils and soaps from India & Morocco

Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 2-7 PM
2716 Peach Street • Erie PA • 814.879.0733

Pride Rally Plans Being Finalized

by Bob

Plans for the annual Erie Gay Pride March and Rally on Saturday, Sept. 30, are being finalized for what should prove to be a bigger and better event.

This year's activities are being coordinated by Erie Gay Pride, Inc., the newly created and incorporated pride organization serving the Erie County GLBT community.

Individuals, groups and organizations that wish to participate in this year's march may start from one of two locations – The Zone Dance Club on W. 18th Street and the Papermoon Restaurant on State Street. The first group of marchers will leave The Zone at 1 PM., march across W. 18th Street and down State Street to meet the marchers at Papermoon. From there, the entire group will march together down State Street to Perry Square. Any groups or organizations who want to march as a unit are cordially invited to do so, and should contact Mike Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for more details. PLEASE NOTE! You can register with an existing group or create a new group when you register online!

The Pride Rally will begin in Perry Square at 2 PM and will feature a variety of speakers and entertainment. In addition, organizers are trying to secure vendors to sell merchandise and organizations to set up information tables in the Square.

Erie Gay Pride, Inc. will make table space available for organizations and vendors. All spaces must be reserved by contacting Brian Bohrer at brianbohrer@peoplepc.com or (814) 825-6203 no later than Sept. 8. There is no charge for table space for groups displaying information only. For vendors selling merchandise, the City of Erie charges a \$20 vendor fee. Those individuals need to get a check made payable to "City of Erie" to Brian Bohrer by Sept. 8.

People interested in participating in either the march or rally (or both), are urged to register online at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>. The organizers also need volunteers to help with a wide variety of tasks. Those interested in volunteering should indicate so when they register online.

More details about the march, rally and related activities will be announced in the weeks to come. Show your Pride and be part of the festivities!

Get your Gay cards now!



Bob is now selling official gay cards as a fund raiser for Erie Gay Pride, Inc. There are 4 corners on each card, and if you commit 4 infractions (You ever served wine from a box; During a theatrical performance you ask, "When's halftime?"; You attend a car show and all you photograph is the cars; You won't allow a car in your driveway that has a Rainbow Sticker on it; You get your flower arrangements from the dollar store.) (I am sure your friends WILL think of a few more reasons too!), you have to turn in your card, but there is immunity available! You will never lose your card If you saw Judy Garland in Concert; You ever saw Bette Midler at the Continental Baths in NYC; If you took a member of the same sex to your Senior Prom; If you have attended a Sunday Tea dance at the Boat Slip in P-Town; Ordered to wear a pink triangle; If you were in a Gay Club in High School; You have a same sex Marriage License; If you have ever gone to one of those Religious conversion programs to change you from Gay to Straight, you will never lose Your Gay Card (of course YOU already know this); You saw Tinkie Winkie in a Gay Bar! If you were ever kicked out of the Military for being Gay (friends WILL think of a few more reasons too!) In addition to the official gay card, there are also bear, leather, lesbian and even a straight card. Cards are \$3 each (because we are all as queer as a \$3 bill), and you can get them from Bob at nwpa505@hotmail.com.

COFFEE & TALK

No Big Whoop!

Every third Wednesday at
Aroma's Coffee House
across from the
West Erie Plaza
on West 8th Street.

Join The Guys!
Check Calender Listing
in Erie Gay News for
date and time.

"I felt welcomed and everyone was cordial and enjoyable company. We had a lot of laughs and great conversations, and most of all, fellowship!"

Mike Lipiec
Graphic Designer, EGN

Be Sexy, Young
& Attractive!

ARBONNE INTERNATIONAL

Learn how through Natural Swiss
Skin Care Products and Cosmetics.

Emporium of Sensuality

Specifically formulated for an individual who is not afraid to be sexy, likes to have fun, and appreciates luxury. Call your personal **Arbonne** Consultant...



Today! **Matt Riazzi**
814-746-9129

Calendar

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

Jul 27-30 Pittsburgh Gay Black Pride
www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com

Jul 29 - Ashtagayla: Ashtabula Pride (Ashtabula OH) Inaugural Ashtabula Pride event, food, drinks, games, music, 18 and over, \$10, 6 PM, 5754 Main St, Ashtabula (behind D'Itri's Barber Shop); (440) 344-2203, nansu630@hotmail.com. Details on front page.

Jul 30 - Picnic with Stonewall Democrats of WNY (Jamestown NY) 4 PM at Greg Rabb's house at 518 Lakeview Avenue in Jamestown NY. Info: (716) 969-9524. See "Community news" on page 4 for details.

Jul 30 - Allegheny Region of Lambda Car Club Outing to Canton OH Going to Canton Classic Car Museum in Canton, OH. Info: email the Allegheny Region at LCCIAAllegheny@yahoo.com or call Bob at (814) 456-9643. Details in "Community News" on page 5.

Jul 31-Aug 6 - Cleveland Black Gay and Proud Celebration www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com

Aug 4-6 - Toronto Black Gay Pride Visit www.torontoblackpride.com IMPORTANT: You now *must* have appropriate border-crossing ID when traveling into Canada.

Aug 5 - Greek Gods TOGA Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us for a night of mystical fun as we summon the gods of Mt. Olympus to the Zone! Go Greek—wear a Toga. Come dressed as your favorite mythological character! - sexy Olympian - drag goddess - leather gladiator! Don't forget the Midas Touch with a bit of gold. ...or come as a Greek statue, with body paints and a well placed fig leaf. Sorry- No Nudity! Get into your Golden Chariot...and be treated like a god! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Aug 5 - 10 % Network: Picnic at Dr. Neal's 3251 Burnham Rd, Cassadaga, NY. 2 - 6 PM. He will provide hot dogs, table service, condiments and asks everyone to bring a dish and drink to pass. Contact: Martin. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: jtown-admin@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

Aug 6 - Imperial Court Annual Boat Ride (Buffalo) Boarding at 6:30 PM and setting sail sharply at 7:00 PM. 3-hour cruise aboard Miss Buffalo II, dress as your favorite Celebrity. Prizes for: Best Impersonation Male and Female. Dry Dock Party following Cruise at Adonia's, 20 Allen in Buffalo. \$20. Presale extended to July 30th or \$25 after the 30th. For tickets contact lorensfeld@yahoo.com or call 716-208-4114 Money raised benefits the Charities of the Imperial Court of Buffalo Reign 16. Info at: <http://buffalogaybars.com>

Aug 12 - Menspace meets Brian and Larry's, 1242 W 10th St, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael

MOVIE EXCHANGE

Why Rent When You Can Own?

No Membership & No Return Date!

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK FROM: 10 AM TO 10 PM

LOCATED: ACROSS FROM FRONTIER PARK 1535 W. 8th ERIE, PA 814.459.8773

100s of General & Adult Titles

General VHS are \$3.99 each
General DVDs are \$9.95 each
Both are Exchangeable for \$1.49

Adult VHS are \$12.95 each
Exchangeable for \$3.99

Adult DVDs are \$18.79 each
Exchangeable for \$3.99

All Types of VHS & DVDs Available!
On Going Reduction Sales!

Sale VHS & DVDs Not Exchangeable

EGN
Erie Gay News

CALENDAR LISTINGS
Are Free!

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

Calendar

Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Aug 12 to 14 - Bears in the Woods XII, annual run by the Arktos Bear Club, open to bears, cubs and their admirers, Camp Davis, Boyers, PA.; www.arktos-online.com, 330-434-4860.

Aug 13 - Vertigo Picnic (Butler, PA) Alameda Park in the Steelworkers Shelter. Details in "Community News," page 4. Browse to www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov

Aug 13 - Live Bands! at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. See the areas hottest bands on the Trance main stage. Check out the Trance website for who is performing! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 16 - NY Residents: Last day to register to vote in NY Primary Election

Aug 19 - 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>.

Aug 20 - Bar Night at Leather Stallion Saloon (Cleveland OH) 2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Some Erie leather folks go to this bar and wanted to invite others to join them on this date. Starts at 6 PM on the patio, no dress code. For more info, visit www.leatherstallion.com for directions. Contact: Jimmy. Email: newageinleather@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://www.newageinleather.org>

Aug 25 - Big Screen Divas! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Let Us Entertain You! Join us on a journey through Tinsel-Town as the Divas of the Zone give us some Hollywood Glam! Featuring Angelica Redd, Melody- Miss Erie 2006, and the Divas and Diva Dudes of the ZONE! Come walk the Red Carpet, into the Zone, and be treated like a STAR! Join us for our Star-Studded Hollywood Weekend! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Aug 26 - Silver Screen Black & White Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. We're going to make YOU the STAR!... of the Zone's own Black & White movie! Dress in Black & White or come as your Favorite old-time Hollywood Movie Star! but wear Black & White! Bette Davis, Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable... Dress like a Sexy Starlet, Hollywood Hunk -or strip down to your Sexy under-things and try out our Casting Couch!...and get ready to be the STAR of the Zone's Own Silver Screen Black & White Party! Lights!...Camera!...Action! Join us for our Star-Studded Hollywood Weekend! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Aug 26 - SKIN! at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. You have it and this is one of your last chances to show it off this summer. Whether you have an awesome tan or alabaster beauty with freckles, show it off. Farmer tans welcome. Let's see those tan lines and tattoos. Body painting and henna tattoos available! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>. MapQuest Map to Trance Dance Club. Also see Resource entry for Trance



Custom Framing Regional & National Artists Paintings, Limited Edition Prints, Fabric Wrapping Mats & Frames Custom Frame Staining.

Hardwood Gifts By Mike Gallagher
Hand Crafted Gifts by Area Crafters
2809 Route 426 Findley Lake, NY 14736
716-769-7474 New Artists Welcome



Something For Everyone!

Silk Screening • Promotional Stuff • Embroidery

1702 West 8th St. • Erie, PA 16505
814-453-4543 • 800-724-1683 • Fax: 814-455-3911
E-Mail: silkscreenunltd@yahoo.com
Web site: www.silkscreenunltd.com

Calendar

Dance Club. Also see Resources for the Erie County PA area. Weather for Erie PA area.

Aug 27 - Live Bands! at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. See the area's hottest bands on the Trance main stage. Check out the Trance website for who is performing! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com.

Aug 27 - Dancin' in the Streets, outdoor dance party benefits AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, 1-8 PM, Clifton Blvd. between West 116th & West 117th Sts., Cleveland; (216)221-2333.

Sep 1 - Black Light Labor Day Weekend Kick Off Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Back by popular demand, Trance's take on the glow party. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Sep 2 - The Black Light Party, Part 2 at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. It's part 2 of the Black Light Labor Day Weekend. Wear your day-glow! Buddy Dobson, the Glow Sorcerer will be

on the main stage for a special performance at midnight. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Sep 3 - Trance-a-palooza 2 at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Join your Trance family for a patio BBQ, the acoustic talents of some of the area's best guitarists and make sure to stay for the bands on the main Trance stage later in the evening. BBQ starts at 6 PM. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com.

Sep 16 - Ohio Lesbian Festival (near Columbus OH) 11 AM to 11 PM at Frontier Ranch, near Columbus, OH. Non-stop stage, sports, games, food concession, workshops, a sober support tent and of course, a fantastic merchant's area! www.ohiolba.org
Oct 6 to 8 - Load the Boat 16 (Cleveland) Annual "fly-in" weekend of square dancing and social events presented by Cleveland City Country Dancers, (216) 251-1053, www.cccdohio.org



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

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

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

**"GET TESTED: YOU NEED TO KNOW"
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.

On stage

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

Through August 26 - Mary Alice Brown: "Class is in Session." This will let audiences focus on Mary Alice on stage without distractions. Mary Alice will also be able to shine and create music that will be unique each night. The show will run Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM from July 14 to August 26. Roadhouse Theatre, 145 West 11th Street, Erie, PA 16502. (814) 456-5656 www.roadhousetheatre.org info@roadhousetheatre.org

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 3-5 - Cirque du Soleil "Delirium" Cleveland, OH Quicken Loans Arena www.cirquedusoleil.com

Aug 10-20 "The Full Monty" Buffalo NY, at Artpark www.artpark.net/schedule.php

Aug 12-19 - "Twelfth Night" at Chautauqua Theater, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua NY. www.ciweb.org

Aug 17-Oct 1 - "Respect: A Musical Journey of Women" Hanna Theater, Cleveland OH www.playhousesquare.org From the folks who brought you Menopause the Musical comes a new show about the journey of women, told through Top-40 music. www.respectamusicaljourney.com

Sep 15- Michael Feinstein Allen Theatre in Cleveland <http://www.playhousesquare.org/index.aspx>

Oct 6 - David Sedaris at Playhouse Square Center, Cleveland OH. www.playhousesquare.org

Oct 10 - David Sedaris University of Buffalo Center for the Arts, Buffalo NY. <http://www.ubcfa.org/>

Nov 1 - Augusten Burroughs at Playhouse Square Center, Cleveland OH. www.playhousesquare.org

Websites/email lists for area performers

Judith Avers www.judithavers.com/

Bob Bearfield www.bobbearfield.com

Carrie Sample www.myspace.com/carriesample

Jocelyn Porter Project www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

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

PLACES

All Signs Point to the Zodiac Dinor

By Porter Stratford, The-Man-About-Town

Most of us have seen HBO's Sex and the City. Many of us, The-Man-About-Town included, love the style, witty banter, sexual openness, the men and of course the meetings at the coffee shop the ladies had each episode. How many of us wanted a place like that?

Well, our wishes have been granted. The Zodiac Dinor is the perfect place to meet with 2, 3, 4 or more friends and talk about Ms. Right/Ms. Right-Now or Mr. "Big". Whether it be a midweek lunch, a pre-going out Friday night dinner or a Saturday after hours breakfast rendezvous, the Zodiac is now the place to be in The-Man-About-Town's opinion.

The-Man-About-Town highly recommends the Southern Cross or the hot turkey sandwich.

The Zodiac Dinor is located at 2516 State Street, Erie PA. It is open Monday through Thursday from 7 AM to 8 PM, 24 hours on Fridays and Saturday, and they close Sundays at 3 PM. The phone is (814) 455-3543.

Readers can reach Porter Stratford at porterstratford@hotmail.com or www.myspace.com/porterstratford.

"Is a gay play a play that has sex with other plays?" ~Harvey Fierstein

reservations appreciated **455-7766**

Fresh seafood
Thai & international fusion cuisine
Live nightly entertainment

jazz piano
sushi
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Sunday jazz brunch

An illuminating experience in the arts & fusion cuisine

14th & state **papermoon.**
www.artaloneendures.com

ERIE GAY PRIDE

**Saturday,
September 30, 2006**

March Step off times:
1 PM at the Zone
133 West 18th Street
1:15 PM at the Paper Moon
1325 State Street

Rally in Perry Square:
2 to 4PM.

Speakers, entertainers,
Vendors and much more

For vendor information contact:
Brian Bohrer at 814-825-6203 or
brianbohrer@peoplepc.com.

Volunteers Needed!

Register at
www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php.

Everyone is Welcome!

Come OUT!

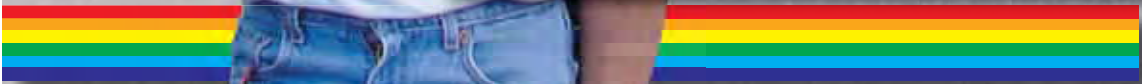
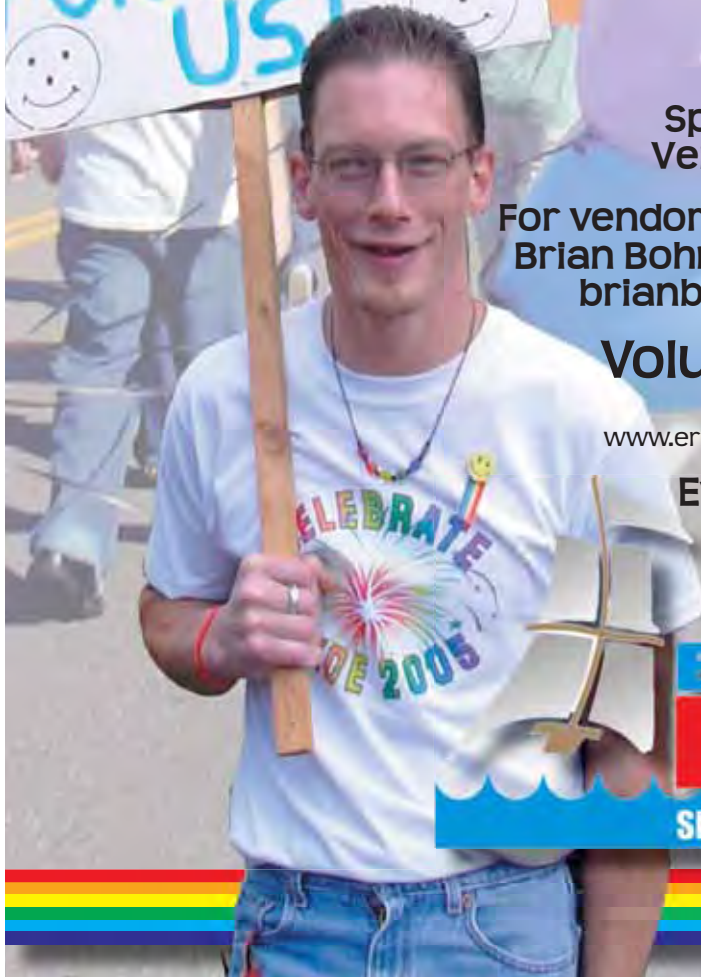
Show Erie Your Pride!

SPONSORED BY:

**ERIE GAY
PRIDE** INC.

SERVING THE LGBT COMMUNITIES

THANK YOU
ERIE
FOR LOVING
US!



International AIDS conference in Toronto

by Patty Puline

Welcome to AIDS 2006!!! www.aids2006.org

As you may or may not know, I have accepted an assignment from Erie Gay News to cover the AIDS 2006 International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Toronto, Canada Aug. 13 – 18. This conference will be huge, and well attended by some very notable and distinguished AIDS research scientists, advocates, and educators.

As your local correspondent, I will be sending information via email on a daily basis during that week.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Michael Mahler and everyone at EGN for the past nine years of collaborative efforts to help reduce the amount of HIV infection in our area.

My own input will be the abstract “Red Wagons, Red Flags”, which will be presented in its entirety at the International AIDS Conference:

“Red Wagons, Red Flags”: A Novel Approach to HIV/AIDS Education P. Puline (Erie County Department of Health), R. Nassiri (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM)) and M. Curtze (Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 3, Erie, Pennsylvania, USA)

Background: HIV infection continues to be problematic throughout the world, in particular, minority communities in the United States. Fifty percent of all new HIV infection is among the ages of 15-24. A medical college, a County Health Department, and regional school unit merged to educate the community on this devastating disease by initiating an HIV education project for youth. “Red Wagons, Red Flags” was designed to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention for the target population. This project is a unique combination of a service project signified by the red wagon and preventive strategies denoted by the red flag.

Methods: A total of 78 students completed training from the college of medicine. Training included the basic virology of HIV, transmission, clinical manifestation, risk factors, drug therapy and resis-

tance. Teen AIDS Peer Corps students aligned with LECOM students to provide educational seminars, activities, role-plays, group discussion and question/answer sessions for local and regional schools. Participating schools received a red wagon and were required to create and present an HIV service project, complete pre- and post surveys and design a red flag which artistically identified HIV risk factors for teens.

Results: Teen AIDS Peer Corps chapters, which have been introduced in four new schools in Northwest Pennsylvania, created new teen peer HIV instructors. Of 20 target schools participated, 16 completed red wagons and red flags. HIV instructors reached a total of 4154 people with 85% reaching the target population of ages 15-24.

Conclusion: “Red Wagons, Red Flags” is a unique educational tool in HIV/AIDS prevention and education. This tool can serve as a national and global model for HIV disease intervention. This effort was a result of cooperation between medical school (LECOM) and a public health department (ECDH) and Erie’s Promise (America’s Promise). Such an effort significantly elevated the communities’ awareness about HIV/AIDS

From AIDS 2006:

World Leaders Join Forces with Science and Community in Upcoming International AIDS Conference

Participants to include former Presidents Mary Robinson and Bill Clinton, HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway, Bill and Melinda Gates and Richard Gere

Other major speakers include NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Stephen Lewis and Bill Roedy of MTV Networks

Organizers of the XVI International AIDS Conference announced that the gathering will offer over 400 sessions, meetings and workshops featuring important scientific advances and discussion of current policy issues among political, scientific and community leaders and others on the frontlines of the epidemic. An estimated 20,000 participants are expected

(continued on next page)

Stay updated!

Subscribe to the Erie GLBT Mailing List.
Visit www.eriegaynews.com

AIDS conference

continued from previous page

to attend the biennial conference, to be held in Toronto, Canada from 13-18 August 2006. The opening program will feature a keynote address by Bill and Melinda Gates, Co-Chairs of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

As your local AIDS advocate, I am excited to be a part of this international delegation, and look forward to bringing back important information about advances in treatment, research, science and educational issues. As you know, I am working hard to restate the 44% of my HIV budget which was slashed this year.

The most important thing lost was HIV education, which simply put, means that we will not be delivering HIV education programs to schools, agencies, or any other public venture again, and that is a sad note indeed. When 50% of all new HIV infection is among ages 15-24, then where should we be? What should we be doing? Is education less important now than it was before? Of course, the answers are no, so I am standing in the gap, awaiting the reversal of this momentous decision.

Please call me if you are interested in attending the conference in Toronto, and by the way, I believe the last minute AIDS scholarships are going quickly. If you are a person living with AIDS, you may qualify for a free scholarship. To find out, go to www.aids2006.org

—Patty Puline, EGN Reporter for AIDS 2006
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.

Pampered Chef® Consultants *Love what they do!* **You Can Too!**

Whether you want to pay off bills, make more time for family, go on a fabulous vacation, or experience the thrill of running your own business, The Pampered Chef® can meet those needs. Call Shellye Andrus at 814-474-9328 or visit my website at: www.pamperedchef.biz/shellyeandrus


The Pampered Chef®
discover the chef in you™

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Hey there! I hope that everyone had a good month. I have been rather furiously busy with some enhancements to the web site and etc.

It was really inspiring to march with everyone in the Millcreek 4th of July Parade. There were a lot of folks who smiled and wave, and apart from 1 inconsequential sour puss, it was quite nice overall. Although I think that it's important to have Gay Pride marches, I think it is also equally as important to be visible as gay folks in mainstream events. We had a rather small turnout for our contingent, but I figure that was mostly due to the short notice and the rainy weather. We should try for a larger contingent in the next parade!

I have frequently joked before about my "you know you're a media whore when..." stories. When the GLBT contingent marched past the reviewing stand at the end of the 4th of July Parade. Sean Lafferty of TV 24 announced Erie Gay News (since we were walking with the banner that James had made) and then said "Hey Mike, keeping dry today?" I guffawed.

Speaking of Gay Pride marches, things seem to be coming together for the fall Pride March/Rally on September 30. We are looking to see which groups will be marching or attending. It would be extremely helpful to have folks register online so that we can get an advance head count and so that we can see about volunteers. Any help is always appreciated!

It's early, but we are batting around some ideas for the Pride Picnic next June. We are thinking of a Gay Day at Waldameer the Sunday after the picnic (i.e. the next day.) The Rotary Pavilion, where we have the picnic, is in high demand, so every year I try to reserve it as quickly as I can. You can reserve it 11 months before the event. When I called at 7 A sharp, someone had gotten in ahead of us, so we are having next year's picnic on the FIRST Saturday in June, rather than the second.

Check out www.eriegaynews.com/photogallery.php. I was redoing some stuff with the web site, and I realized that we now have photo galleries with various pieces of gay history with different sources. So, I created a page that has all the galleries I could find from 1995 through the present. It's nice seeing memories from the past and seeing how things have grown.

Romans 1:26-27 Natural and Unnatural

Excerpted from "What the Bible Says - And Doesn't Say - About Homosexuality" by Rev. Mel White, co-founder of Soulforce.

What does Romans 1:26-27 say about God?

For our discussion, this is the most controversial biblical passage of them all. In Romans 1:26-27 the apostle Paul describes non-Jewish women who exchange "natural use for unnatural" and non-Jewish men who "leave the natural use of women, working shame with each other."

This verse appears to be clear: Paul sees women having sex with women and men having sex with men, and he condemns that practice. But let's go back 2,000 years and try to understand why.

Paul is writing this letter to Rome after his missionary tour of the Mediterranean. On his journey Paul had seen great temples built to honor Aphrodite, Diana, and other fertility gods and goddesses of sex and passion instead of the one true God the apostle honors. Apparently, these priests and priestesses engaged in some odd sexual behaviors -- including castrating themselves, carrying on drunken sexual orgies, and even having sex with young temple prostitutes (male and female) -- all to honor the gods of sex and pleasure.

The Bible is clear that sexuality is a gift from God. Our Creator celebrates our passion. But the Bible is also clear that when passion gets control of our lives, we're in deep trouble.

When we live for pleasure, when we forget that we are God's children and that God has great dreams for our lives, we may end up serving the false gods of sex and passion, just as they did in Paul's time. In our obsession with pleasure, we may even walk away from the God who created us -- and in the process we may cause God to abandon all the great dreams God has for our lives.

Did these priests and priestesses get into these behaviors because they were lesbian or gay? I don't think so. Did God abandon them because they were practicing homosexuals? No. Read the text again.

In our Soulforce video, *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*, the Rev. Dr. Louis B. Smedes, a distinguished Christian author and ethicist, describes exactly how the Bible says these promiscuous priests and priestesses got into this mess. Once again it has nothing to do with homosexuality:

SMEDES: "The people Paul had in mind refused to acknowledge and worship God, and for this reason were abandoned by God. And being abandoned by God, they sank into sexual depravity."

SMEDES: "The homosexuals I know have not rejected God at all; they love God and they thank God for his grace and his gifts. How, then, could they have been abandoned to homosexuality as a punishment for refusing to acknowledge God?"

SMEDES: "Nor have the homosexuals that I know given up heterosexual passions for homosexual lusts."

(continued on next page)

Sign of intolerance in Corry



This sign was recently displayed at the New Life Assembly of God, in Corry, PA. It declares "God Says Homosexuality is Wrong. Rom. 1:22-32"

Contact information for the church is as follows:
New Life Assembly of God
715 E. Main St. Corry, PA 16407
Phone (814) 665-0903
Email pastor: PastorIrvin@corrynewlife.com
Web: www.corrynewlife.com

Soulforce excerpt

continued from previous page

They have been homosexual from the moment of their earliest sexual stirrings. They did not change from one orientation to another; they just discovered that they were homosexual. It would be unnatural for most homosexuals to have heterosexual sex."

SMEDES: "And the homosexual people I know do not lust after each other any more than heterosexual people do... their love for one another is likely to be just as spiritual and personal as any heterosexual love can be."

Thank you, Dr. Smedes. (To get a copy of the video featuring Dr. Smedes, There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, visit www.soulforce.org.)

Getting to know a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person of faith will help you realize that it is unreasonable (and unjust) to compare our love for each other to the rituals of the priests and priestesses who pranced around the statues of Aphrodite and Diana. Once again, I feel certain this passage says a lot about God, but nothing about homosexuality as we understand it.

You'll also note that Romans 2 begins with "Therefore, [referring to Romans 1], you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself..." Even after he describes the disturbing practices he has seen, Paul warns us that judging others is God's business, not ours.

The purpose of Soulforce is freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent resistance. You can learn more about Soulforce by visiting their website at www.soulforce.org



**COMMUNITY
UNITED
CHURCH**

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

Resources for Christians

Some of the many resources available for GLBT Christians and their supporters. Clickable links at the web version of this article.

Christian Lesbians Extensive links to other GLBT Christian resources as well. www.christianlesbians.com

Evangelicals Concerned "We are the national network of gay and lesbian evangelical Christians and friends. Website: www.ecinc.org/

Gay Christian Links <http://members.aol.com/beldspress/links.htm>

Gay Christian Online Advice, articles, information, encouragement, affirmation, positive lifestyle, books, links, poetry, music, and more. www.gaychristianonline.org/

Soulforce www.soulforce.org/

Whosoever Ministries, Inc. exists to provides a safe and sacred space for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Christians to reclaim, rekindle and grow their relationship with God. www.whosoever.org/index.shtml

"The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals. It's just that they need more supervision."

~ Lynn Lavner



**Williams
Gardening
Services**

Gay-Owned
19 Years Experience

Complete Landscape
Service Planting,
Lawn Care, Pruning,
Shrub & Flower Care,
Pond Building,
Care, Retaining
Wall Building and
Repair & Spring
Clean Up & Grave Site
Design & Maintenance

Erie, PA • 814-504-5983

Regularly meeting

Always Our Children Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4 Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

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

Butler Area GLBT Support Group Aug 23, Sep 27, Oct 25 Ginger Hill UU Congregation, 174 S Main St, Slippery Rock, PA. 7 PM. Contact Reid at (724) 735-4407 butlerdiversity@yahoo.com.

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) Sep 4, Sep 18, Oct 2, Oct 16 Unitarian-Universalist Parish House, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA. 7 PM. We are a cross-denominational Christian group of/for LGBT people – encompassing spiritual nurture, discussion of LGBT issues, and mutual support. ALL ARE WELCOME! Phone: (814) 724-1832. Email: bykota@eriegaynews.com.

Planning meeting for Fall Pride Event Aug 20, Sep 17 Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State 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) Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 11 218 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 Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9 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 Aug 8 at 7 PM, Aug 17 at 10 AM, Sep 12 at 7 PM, Sep 21 at 10 AM, Oct 10 at 7 PM, Oct 19 at 10 AM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

The Guys at Aroma's Coffeehouse Jul 12, Aug 2, Aug 23, Sep 13, Oct 4 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>

Oral HIV Testing LOCAL TREATMENT

**Stay Safe!
Use Protection!
Get Tested!
Get Treatment!**

45% of new HIV infections are between Men Who Have Sex with Men.

Community Health Net offers:

- FREE Oral HIV Testing
- Primary Medical Care
- HIV Specialty Care
- Dental Services
- Vision Care

**No Insurance!
No Problem!**

We Can Help!

**Call 814-454 - 4530 ex.290
for more information**



This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant under the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

National News Briefs

by Bob

Anti Gay amendment voted for by English and Peterson

The U.S. House of Representatives on July 18 rejected the proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, ending for another year a congressional debate that supporters of the ban hope will still reverberate in this fall's election.

The 236-187 vote for the proposal to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman was 47 short of the two-thirds majority needed to advance a constitutional amendment. It followed six weeks after the Senate also decisively defeated the amendment, a top priority of social conservatives.

Northwestern Pennsylvania's two U.S. Congressmen, Phil English and John Peterson, both Republicans, voted for the amendment.

Gay Men More Likely to Have Older Brothers

A Canadian study has found that the number of older brothers a man has may influence his sexual orientation.

According to researchers at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON, first-born sons have a 3 percent chance of being homosexual, standard for the population as a whole. However, the study noted that the fourth son's chance of being gay doubles to about 6 percent.

Researcher Anthony Bogaert studied 944 heterosexual and homosexual men in Canada, with either biological or non-biological (adopted or step) brothers. Bogaert noted that previous theories suggested

that the older brothers' psychosocial interactions with their younger brothers influenced their sexual orientation. If this were true, then the leading factor would be that the younger brother was raised together with older brothers, biological or non-biological.

However, Bogaert found that only the number of biological older brothers, regardless if they were raised together, increased the chances that the younger brother would be homosexual.

"In fact, [the gay men] had more biological older brothers who they were never reared with, which means there's probably some biological prenatal factor to account for this older brother effect," Bogaert said. This research suggests that, in at least some cases, homosexuality is biological and may account for about one of every 7 gay men in North America. The order in which the sons are born to the same mother, called the fraternal birth order, seems to be the source of the biological factor.

"This is an important contribution," said Dean Hamer, a researcher at the National Cancer Institute, who discovered genetic links to sexual orientation. "It's possible to really show this is a biological rather than social or psychosocial effect."

This older brother effect "does not explain everyone, but this is definitely a part of it," said Sven



Real Estate Services

Linda Foll Johnson, GRI, RRS
Associate Broker
814-864-3200 ext 325
or 814-397-0615
lfjohnson@howardhanna.com



Pride Picnic pics



Eric, Scott, Mark, Eric on floating dock at the June 10 Pride Picnic. More photos at the Erie Gay News website.

PHOTO: James von Loewe

National News Briefs

Bocklandt, a researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Bogaert noted however that the maternal immunization theory does not apply to lesbians.

"The mechanism behind the fraternal birth effect in males is probably gender-specific just to males," said Bogaert. "There are perhaps different biological routes to sexual orientation in women, relative to men." Studies have not been able to show an effect of older or younger siblings on female sexual orientation.

Pentagon Removes Homosexuality from Mental Disorder List

At the request of the American Psychiatric Association and a handful of lawmakers, the Pentagon has removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

This reversal however, will have no impact on U.S. policy prohibiting openly gay people from serving in the military.

The move came after a 1996 Pentagon document placing homosexuality among a list of "certain mental disorders" came to light and the Defense Department was asked to change its view. In a statement, the Pentagon said: "Homosexuality should not have been characterized as a mental disorder in an appendix of a procedural instruction. A clarification will be issued over the next few days."

"Notwithstanding its inclusion, we find no practical impact since that appendix simply listed factors that do not constitute a physical disability, and homosexuality of course does not," the Pentagon added.

The 1996 Pentagon document, which was re-certified as "current" in 2003, listed homosexuality as a mental disorder along with mental retardation, impulse control disorders and personality disorders.

The American Psychiatric Association, responsible for a definitive listing of mental health classifications, declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973.

Court Clears Way for Voters to Address Gay Marriage in Mass.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, the same court that made Massachusetts the first state to legalize gay marriage, has ruled that a proposed constitutional amendment to ban future same-sex marriages can be placed on the ballot, if the amendment is approved by the state legislature.

Ironically, the ruling was the result of a lawsuit brought by gay-rights supporters. They had argued that Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly was wrong to approve the same-sex marriage question because the state constitution bars any citizen-initiated amendment that seeks to reverse a judicial ruling.

In a unanimous decision, however, the court said the constitution does not bar citizen initiatives from proposing changes to the constitution, even if that overrules the effect of a prior court decision. However, citizen-initiated ballot questions must be certified by the attorney general and then approved by two consecutive legislative sessions. Before the marriage question could be placed on the 2008 ballot, supporters would need to win the votes of 50 lawmakers —

(continue on next page)

**Want to stay on top of
Local & State
GLBT Political Issues?**
Subscribe
to the **GLBT Vote
Mailing
List!**
To Subscribe visit www.eriegaynews.com

**Gaudenzia
SHOUT OUTREACH**
offering **FREE** and confidential testing.
For more information,
Call Fran or Malcolm at:
814-459-4775
It takes more than a ribbon to stop AIDS... It takes YOU!

National News

(continued from previous page)

25 percent of the Legislature — in two consecutive sessions.

The state legislature was expected to take up the marriage issue at this month's constitutional convention, but the issue was tabled for now.

Gay Marriage Suffers Set-backs in Two States

In the same day, the high courts in New York and Georgia ruled that same-sex marriage is not permitted in their jurisdictions.

Court of Appeals in New York and the Georgia Supreme Court both ruled that marriage will continue to be defined as between a man and a woman. In the New York case, the court denied that the state's 97-year-old definition of marriage violated the constitutional rights of same-sex couples. The court also said any changes in that definition will have to be made by the legislature.

The issue is likely to get embroiled in state politics. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a Republican, said he would lobby the legislature for gay-marriage rights if the court ruled as it has. State Senate majority leader Joe Bruno, also a Republican indicated he's not opposed to civil unions. Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, the Democratic candidate for governor, has said he is in favor of gay marriages while his Republican opponent, John Faso, is opposed.

Although the New York court ruling is final, it may be revisited when it decides whether New York will recognize gay marriages performed elsewhere.

In Georgia, the state Supreme Court reinstated the constitutional ban on gay marriage that was approved by 76% of Georgia's voters in 2004.

Opponents of the ban sued, arguing that the ballot language was misleading since it asked voters to decide on allowing both same-sex marriage and civil unions. A state judge initially agreed, ruling that the language involved separate issues about which many people have different opinions.

The Georgia Supreme Court however, reversed that ruling, deciding unanimously that the ban did not violate the state's single-subject rule for ballot measures.

New York County will Recognize Marriages

Westchester County has become the eighth locality in New York state to adopt a policy recognizing out-of-state same-sex marriages.

County Executive Andrew Spano signed the Executive Order June 6 which insures that same-sex couples who live in Westchester County, but were married in Massachusetts, Canada or in another location where same-sex marriage is valid, are legally married in the eyes of the County.

"We need to value all types of loving, committed relationships," Spano said. "I want to be sure that all Westchester County services treat all valid marriages the same way."

Westchester County, which is just north of New York City, joins the other New York localities of Albany, Brighton, Buffalo, Ithaca, New York City, Nyack and Rochester in recognizing legal same-sex marriages.

GAYELLOW PAGES™

INFORMING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL
& TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1973

Accommodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources
Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

USA/CANADA: \$25 by first class mail.
All states and provinces, national headquarters of
organizations, mail order companies, etc.

The whole book is now online in Acrobat Reader PDF format
<http://www.gayellowpages.com/online.htm>
Also available as a no-frills CD in PDF format

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>

Santorum's "sinister" immigration ad

by Deb Spilko

I was recently thinking about the Rick Santorum quote that equated same-sex marriage with the events of September 11, 2001. The quote went like this:

"This is an issue just like 9-11, we didn't decide we wanted to fight the war on terrorism because we wanted to. It was brought to us. And if not now, when? When the supreme courts in all the other states have succumbed to the Massachusetts version of the law?" (Sen. Rick Santorum quoted in Allentown PA Morning Call, February 25, 2004).

I thought of this statement after seeing the Santorum campaign's first ad of the 2006 election year. The ad is not about gay people, but it seems to contain a lot of the very same elements that have gone into Santorum's anti-gay efforts. Things like whipping up intolerance against "them" or "those people" and encouraging resentment against "special privileges."

In the ad, Santorum—in his best attempt at sounding warm and sincere—tells us, "My father immigrated here from Italy with my grandfather, who worked 30 years in the coal mines of western Pennsylvania. They came here with dreams of a better life for their family. Unfortunately, today some enter our country with more sinister intentions. That's why I fought so hard to add thousands of new guards to beef up our borders and for critical high-tech surveillance. To do anything less is not only dangerous, but an insult to those who have come to America by following the rules."

Okay, now wait a minute. Is this ad about dealing with illegal immigration, or terrorism? It's hard not to conclude that the Santorum campaign might not have a few sinister intentions of their own with regard to this particular ad.

Because if you want to fight terrorism, then beefing up border patrols is of limited value—after all, the 19 men who took part in the September 11 attacks entered here legally, and our many domestic terrorists (like Oklahoma City bomber Tim McVeigh) were born here. And if we are talking about terrorists, then the idea that they should be "following the rules" starts getting into some very bizarre territory indeed.

If it's about illegal immigration, then what's with the "sinister intentions" and "dangerous" remarks? Most people who immigrate here illegally just do it

because they want to find work or a better life. Regardless of how you feel about that, or what you think should be done, there isn't anything sinister or dangerous about that fact.

Or could it be that Santorum really intended to roll up terrorism and illegal immigration into one tidy hate-mongering little package, creating one humdinger of a foe—a new type of enemy to hate and fear—that the strong, brave Senator will protect us from?

By the way—why would someone who is running for office in the state of Pennsylvania choose immigration issues to kick off his ad campaign? This isn't Texas or Arizona. We don't have Canadians sneaking across the Peace Bridge for the dubious privilege of doing stoop labor in our cabbage fields. Yes, we are concerned about our jobs, but that has more to do with the fact that jobs are leaving the country and going *into* places like Mexico or China. So why not tackle jobs and economic growth—or any of a number of other issues that the state's voters have actually expressed concern about, like taxes, education, or health care?

One last thing about this particular ad. Regarding Rick's father and grandfather coming here from Italy legally and "following the rules" ... *hello!* They had no choice! European immigrants (otherwise known as white people) do not have a border with the United States through which they can enter illegally. While I'm sure Rick's father and grandfather were quite lovely people, the fact that Europeans didn't sneak into the country in droves has absolutely nothing to do with being more virtuous than the brown people who do have a border they can breach. European immigrants had to follow the rules or they just didn't get in. Period. So how can you take credit for resisting temptation for something you couldn't do in the first place?

Finally, there is another Santorum ad—aired on the radio—that throws around a lot of allegations about all the special privileges that Casey supposedly wants to hand out to illegal immigrants. It is a distortion of Casey's position, of course, but the "special privileges" angle is something that GLBT voters need to be aware of, since this is a favorite tactic for fomenting intolerance against gay people as well.

Links for sources in this column can be seen at the web version at www.eriegaynews.com

Pride Picnic pics

Photos from June 10 Pride Picnic by James von Loewe. More Picnic photos at [Erie Gay News website](#).



Jeremy and Roger



Gregg, John, "T" and Shakira



Lee, Tim, and Jason.



Roni, Andrea, Kim working at Pride Picnic registration table.



Gary Snyder and his father John.



Maureen Koseff and Tim.

WE CAN HELP !

ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

606 West Second Street • Corner of West 2nd & Cherry Streets

HIV & STD

COUNSELING & TESTING

Oral HIV
testing
now
available

No Appointment Necessary

WALK-IN CLINICS

MONDAY

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

Hispanic American
Council
814.455.0212

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

All services are free and confidential.

Specially trained outreach workers are available for in home appointments, (HIV testing only).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

GREEK GODS TOGA PARTY!

GO GREEK! SHOW SOME SKIN, WEAR A TOGA!

 OR COME AS A SEXY OLYMPIAN, DRAG GODDESS, LEATHER GLADIATOR.

GET INTO THE ZONE... AND BE TREATED LIKE A GOD!

HOLLYWOOD WEEKEND!

BIG SCREEN

DIVAS!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

FEATURING: ANGELICA REDD, MELODY, MISS ERIE 2006 & MICHELE MICHAELS!
LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

SILVER SCREEN SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

BLACK & WHITE PARTY!
COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE HOLLYWOOD MOVIE CHARACTER
WEAR BLACK & WHITE AND BE A STAR!

The Zone Dance Club • 133 West 18th St. Erie, PA (814)452-0125
Get into your ZONE! www.thezonedanceclub.com

ZONE

DANCE CLUB • ERIE, PA

SATURDAY AUG 5
GREEK GODS TOGA PARTY!

GO GREEK
WEAR A TOGA!

HOLLYWOOD WEEKEND

FRIDAY AUG 25

BIG SCREEN DIVAS!

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

HOLLYWOOD WEEKEND

SATURDAY AUG 26

SILVER SCREEN BLACK & WHITE PARTY!

WEAR BLACK & WHITE OR DRESS LIKE A STAR!

SATURDAY AUG 9

GLOW PARTY!

BLACKLIGHTS & GLOWSTICKS
WEAR BLACK & WHITE OR NEON BODY PAINT!

HUNGRY? WING MADNESS!

2 for 1 Wings
Every Wed. & Sun.