

Chautauqua County group forms

from Kate Ebersole

Watchfire Alliance was founded approximately six months ago as a means for GLBT people in the Chautauqua county region to get together and talk about how to create more resources for our community in a rural area. The first meetings were mostly to determine the needs of our community, and many of the meetings since then have focused on specific actions we could take to address those needs. We meet once a month, usually on the second Friday of the month in either Jamestown or up in the Cassadaga/Lilydale area. We consider ourselves to be a social, networking and social action group. Many of the people who have participated in the Watchfire Alliance have done so because they do not have any other social outlets in our area. As a result, we have been

incorporating social activities such as a picnic this last summer and a talent show/Christmas party in December. We welcome anyone within the GLBT communities in Chautauqua county or the surrounding region to come to a meeting and see if this is a group that you would be interested in getting involved with. There is no fee to join, there is no expectation of time or monetary commitments other than those which you would like to contribute. We are self-sustaining so there is no governance structure in place. Our hope is to develop some outreach programs for the youth and aging GLBT populations in Chautauqua county as part of our mission, and we encourage anyone who is interested in this type of work to join us. You can get information about the Watchfire Alliance by emailing to watchfirealliance@yahoo.com.

More Community News on page 4!



People in the Erie Pride March, braving the cold, wind and threats of rain. More photos of Pride Erie on page 23 and on the Erie Gay News website

PHOTO: James von Loewe

In This Issue...

Calendar	7
On stage	10
Theatre	
World AIDS Day 2006	. 11
National News Briefs	
Regularly meeting	15
Don't Blame God for Human Acts	16
Candidate Survey - PA State representative	18
Three important PA races	
Erie Shows its Pride	

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Erie Gay News		
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Erie Gay News

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.

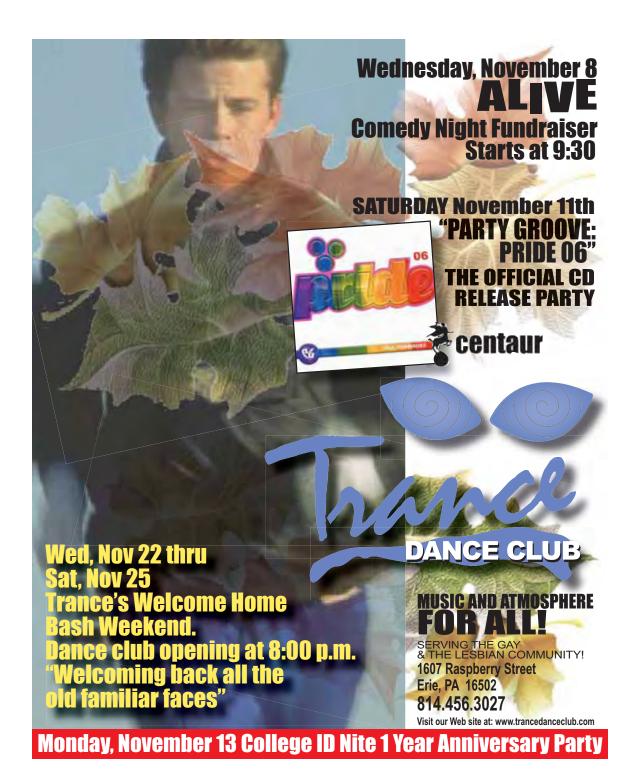
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Thank You:

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Community News

(continued from front page)

Get your New Year's *LEI* in Ashtabula

from Ashtabula County Alliance

The Ashtabula County Alliance (committee of Ashtagayla 2006) cordially invites you to ring in the new year Hawaiian Style at the LA Cafe, 1017 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004.

The evening will include: Hors d'oeuvres, elegant buffet style dinner at 8 PM, live DJ, open bar 7 PM to 1 AM, karaoke contest, limbo contest, and prizes.

Commemorative photos will be available. Hawaiian attire is encouraged!

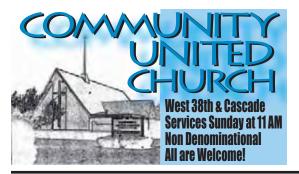
Cost for the evening: *Early Bird Special*: \$65 single/\$120 couple through Nov. 30. *Dec. 1st and after*: \$75 single, \$140 couple.

For more information or for tickets: email gaybula@hotmail.com with the subject: New Year's Eve or call Chris at 440-344-2203.

Final Cause for Celebration

by AIDS Community Services of WNY

After nearly two decades, the era of Cause for Celebration will come to an end after this year's event. Don't miss your chance to help us make Cause history at the very last Cause for Celebration ever, Saturday, Nov. 18 at the beautiful Statler Towers in downtown Buffalo. To purchase tickets online visit www.aidscommunityservices.com Questions or comments? Please contact AIDS Community Services of Western New York by phone at (716)847-0340 or email cray@aidscommunityservices.com



NWPA PFLAG Presentation at Behrend

by Maureen Koseff

The Northwestern Pennsylvania PFLAG Representative made a presentation to a women's studies class at Penn State University, the Behrend College, on Sept. 21. The lecture provided an opportunity to implement PFLAG's mission to educate the public regarding GLBT issues and understanding GLBT people. It was rewarding to observe the willingness on the part of the class to learn about these issues and actually commit to confronting anti-gay bias their daily lives.

Interview subjects sought

by Jamie McCoy

To anybody interested in sharing their personal stories of prejudice and discrimination: My name is Jamie McCoy and I am a senior psychology major at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA. My interests include evolutionary aspects of behavior, unconscious and conscious prejudice and research in methods to reduce prejudice in a number of different susceptible environments. I am currently working on a research project to fulfill my degree requirements. The name of this project is "Where We've Been & Where We're Going: Sexual Prejudice in the New Millennium" and I am looking for anybody who is comfortable talking about their experiences and who is interested in relaying these experiences to me. Questions asked include "How often do you feel that you are discriminated



Community News

against because of your sexual orientation" and "How often does stereotyping of homosexuality effect you?" Answers to these questions will be given in an informal interview format, which will include discussion of personal experiences. Interviews can take place on a face to face basis or via a phone interview. The deadline for participation in this study is Nov. 8th. If you are interested, please contact me by telephone at (810) 820-5989 or email at jmccoy18@mercyhurst.edu. I look forward to hearing from and talking with you about this exciting new research!

Rainbow Rally In The Valley

The Mahoning Valley Stonewall Democrats are holding a Rainbow Rally October 27 at the 441 Bar in Warren. Ohio.

Meet the candidates you can support because they will support you: Sherrod Brown for US Senate, Tim Ryan for US House, John Boccieri for Ohio Senate, Bob Hagan for Ohio House. With special guest Mayor Henry Angelo of Warren

Meet them all at the 441 Bar in Warren, Ohio, around the corner from Trumbull Democratic Headquarters on Market Street.

The Rally will run from 5 PM to 9 PM There will be prizes, food, and entertainment, all evening long.

Mahoning Valley Stonewall Democrats is a group to help the GLBT community be involved in their government in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties



Helpful numbers

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline 1-888-843-GLNH www.glnh.org/index_.html

Covenant House Nineline (youth)

Trevor Helpline for Suicidal Gay Youth 1-800-850 8078

Erie Hotline (814) 453-5656

Lee moving South



Photo: James von Loewe

Lee Edmondson, Co-Owner of the Trance Dance Club, just before moving to Florida.

The night before he left, Lee announced to Trance customers that the bar would remain open and keep serving a gay clientele.

"Ålso, Tim and I are not splitting up," he said. "We lived apart for a lot of our relationship— Tim ran the Pines in Ripley while I was in Florida."

He said that a business he had wanted to buy had become available, and decided to take advantage of it.

Best wishes. Lee!

Community News

mvstonewall.com/ or email mvstonewall@yahoo.com.

Mas Nova album release party

The band Mas nova will be holding an album release party at Sherlock's November 22 and at Trance on December 3. The CD is called "Hollywood."

Lead vocalist of Mas Nova is Joseph Newcomer (known to

many GLBT folks as "the cute straight bartender who works at Trance.") Jason Bean is on guitar, Tommy Gary on Bass and Chris Ottena on drums. The band was recently signed to Record Breaker Records.

The Sherlock's Show will begin at 9 PM, and also features Super No. 7 and Dirt McGurtt. The December 3 show at Trance will be acoustic, and will also feature Super No. 7.

To find out more abou the band go to their website by sing the keyword Mas Nova, or use the clickable link at the web version of this story.





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Calendar

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

Oct 25 - 'The Guys' at Hookah Cafe 129 W 14th St (Union Station Complex), Erie PA. 7 PM. Informal get-together. Meets every 3 weeks. Now will be moving location each time. For more info, contact Brian at (814) 825-6203 or email eriebrian@gmail.com.

Oct 27 - Lost Treasures of the Divas! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join the Divas' and Diva Dudes on a Swashbuckling Pirate Adventure! The Zone's Halloween Show -featuring House Diva Angelica Redd, Miss Erie 2006 - Melody!, and our own Michele Michaels! Get here early for a seat, and we'll show you our Treasures! Phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Oct 28 - Performance: 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market 827 State St, Erie, PA. 7:30 - 9:30 PM. From 2 Girls Alone: "We'd like the evening to be boo-tiful, so please feel free to dress for the event. Joe and Joey will give prizes for best costume and will have other seasonal surprises in store. This is our first time playing at the State Street store. Don't forget to BYOB if you are so inclined." Phone: (814) 453-2328.

Oct 28 - 3rd Annual "Trancefantasy" Halloween Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Prizes for Best costumes! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com

Oct 28 - "Pillage & Plunder Halloween Party" at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Grab your friends and follow the treasure map into the

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Zone, because the ghost ship has docked on Skull Island and the pirates are ready to party! Come dance on the ship's deck and drink from the galley-we're hunting for some Pirate booty to plunder. Come pillage your share of the pirates' treasure or find someone's family jewels. Come dressed as a Pirate Scoundrel or Wench, Mystical Mermaid or a Lost Shipwrecked Soul ... or just wear black. Prizes for Best Costume. Erie's Biggest and Best Gay Halloween Party! Yo ho ho, and a bottle of Rum—Get into the Zone for some Halloween Fun! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com. Oct 31 - Halloween Night at the Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Get into the Zone for one last night to find some Pirate Booty. Yo Ho Ho and a bottle of rum...this is your last chance for some Halloween fun! Happy Halloween from the Staff of the Zone! Phone: (814)452-0125. Browse to http://

Oct 28 - Youngstown Pride: Potluck Get-Together First Unitarian Church 1105 Elm St, Youngstown OH

www.thezonedanceclub.com.



Calendar

7:30 PM. Bring a covered dish and an appetite. Ph: 74-PRIDE (330-747-7433) email: youngstownpride@hotmail.com web: http://pride.americanmetaphysics.org/

Nov 7 - Election Night Celebration of Rick's Retirement and Lynn's Swann Song at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 8:30 PM.

Phone: (814) 456-3027.

Nov 8 - ALIVE Comedy Night Fundraiser at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9:30 PM. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com.

Nov 11 - 'Party Groove: Pride 06' The Official CD Release Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com.

Nov 11 - Brokeback Bunkhouse Party - Boots and Boxers Night at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Yee Haw! -back by popular demand. We want to see what real cowboys wear under their Wranglers. Guys—wear cowboy shirts, boxers, long-johns, leather chaps, and boots. Ladies-—get out your daisydukes and bandanas for some boot-scootin' fun. Don't worry you can leave yer' Wranglers on if yer' a mite bit shy. Grab your cowboy hat, round up the posse', and get into the Zone Saloon for a night of twosteppin' and *fun!* Save a Horse...Ride a Cowboy! Phone: 452-0125. (814)**Browse** to http:// www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 13 - College ID Night 1 Year Anniversary Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email:

contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com.

Nov 15 - 'The Guys' at Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St, Erie PA. 7 PM. Informal get-together. Meets every 3 weeks. Now will be moving location each time. For more info, contact Brian at (814) 825-6203 or email eriebrian@gmail.com.

Nov 15 - Trance Welcomes Back the Sisters of Erie! at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com.

Nov 15-19 - 2006 Lake Erie Gala The Erie Sisters Transgender support group will hold its annual Lake Erie Gala at the Quality Inn & Suites, 8040 Perry Highway, in Erie. Info; (814) 746-5524 (best time to call is M-W-F 5 PM to 9 PM) or visit www.eriesisters.org

Nov 18 - Menspace (Peter and Tim's, Erie, PA) 7:30 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to http://menspace.eriegaynews.com.

Nov 22 - 'Hollywood' Album Release Party for Mas Nova (Sherlock's, 508 State St, Erie, PA) 9 PM. With special guests Super No. 7 and Dirt McGurtt. Help save Rock and Roll! Phone: (814) 453-7760.

Nov 22 - 'Family Reunion' at the Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Everyone is coming home for the Thanksgiving Holiday—Catch up with old friends and family for a night of dancing and fun at the Zone. Kitchen is open at 8 PM - 2 AM for 1 Wing Madness, Happy Hour 9 PM to 11 PM Dance to your





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Calendar

favorite videos all night long! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 22 - 25 - Trance's Welcome Home Bash Weekend at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Dance club opening at 8 PM. Welcoming back all the old familiar faces. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com.

Nov 23 - Thanksgiving Day at the Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. We open at 8:00. Join us for an after dinner drink and dance off all those extra calories! Happy Thanksgiving from the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 24 - Black Friday Party at the Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Don't let the horrors of the Christmas shopping season get you down—Join us for a night of fun in the dark. Wear black—glowsticks and blacklights! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 25 - Studio 54 Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Everyone is on the VIP list for a night of Glitz, Glitter, and Glam! as we open the velvet ropes to the best dance party in town! Come "celebrate the night-life" with your favorite Disco Divas and dazzle us on the dance floor as we play the hottest videos and music in town! Dress to impress, put on the Glitz, Glitter, and Glam! Or dress as your favorite Disco Diva, Saturday-night Stud, or one of the Village People. A hot night in the city—Studio 54 Night at the Zone! by popular demand! Phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 29 - Mad Man Matt's Birthday Bash at the Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St Erie, PA. Join us

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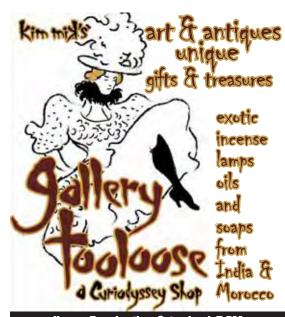
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Roosevelt Thomas, PO Box 461, Posen, Illinois 60469-0461. Please inclued \$3 to cover the S&H expense. as we celebrate Bartender Matt's Birthday! Come buy him a shot and get him out on the video dance-floor! Happy Birthday from everyone at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Dec 3 - Mas Nova CD Release Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com. Mas Nova website: http://www.myspace.com/masnova

Dec 6 - '**The Guys**' Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe, 408 W 8th St, Erie PA. 7 PM. Informal get-together. Meets every 3 weeks. Now will be moving location each time. For more info, contact Brian at (814) 825-6203 or email eriebrian@gmail.com.

Dec 16 - Menspace (Bob's, Erie, PA) 7:30 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to http://menspace.eriegaynews.com.



Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 1-7 PM 2716 Peach Street • Erie PA • 814.879.0733

On stage

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

Nov 1 - Augusten Burroughs at Playhouse Square Center, Cleveland OH. www.playhousesquare.org Nov. 24-Dec. 2 - The Roadhouse Theatre is producing two plays by David Sedaris *The Santaland Diaries* and *Season's Greetings* Nov. 24-Dec. 23, Fri & Sat 8 PM Reservations 456-5656.

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
Kendall www.kendallshead.com/
Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com
Two Girls Alone http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com email
list: twogirlsalone@verizon.net.



Theatre

Blood Relations- The Legend of Lizzie Borden at The Directors Circle Theatre.

"Lizzie borden took an axe. Gave her mother forty whacks. When she saw what she had done, Gave her father forty-one."

Popular culture is obsessed with "murder most foul"-the brutal killings of politicians and prostitutes, of wives and schoolchildren.

On August 4, 1892, Andrew and Abbie Borden were found hacked to death in their home in Fall River, Massachusetts. That morning, Lizzie reported to Bridget Sullivan, the Bordens' Irish maid, her discovery of the bloody body of her father sprawled on the sofa in the sitting room.

When the doctor and police arrived, they also found the body of Lizzie's step-mother upstairs in the guest room. Although no evidence of blood was found on Lizzie's clothes, she was charged with the murders, and the trial date set for June 5, 1893.

The trial lasted 14 days and caused a national sensation: it was the first public trial in the United States to be covered extensively by the media.

Lizzie was eventually acquitted on the grounds of circumstantial evidence. She later maintained a relationship with a young Boston actress named Nance O'Neil, and died in 1927.

"Blood Relations" is a conjectural account, a trial by theatre in which the audience participates as judge and jury- and as accomplice!

Previous Halloween thrillers at Directors Circle included *Deathtrap, Dracula, The Haunting of Hill House* and *Veronica's Room.* Directed by Michael Weiss, the play stars Carolin Lynn as Miss Lizzie, Karen Shelinski as the Actress, D. Art Dows and Teresa Testrake as Mr. & Mrs. Borden and also features Betsy Butoryak, Dan Pruyn and Raymond Steinbacher, with period costumes by Vi.

The production plays Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 26 thru Nov. 18. Curtain time is 8 PM. Directors Circle is located at 1001 State Street, Erie, PA., on the 2nd floor of the Renaissance Centre. For Reservations call 814 451-1153.

By Sharon Pollock-opens for the Halloween Season October 26th at The Directors Circle Theatre.

World AIDS Day 2006

by Fran Reinsel, RN SHOUT OUTREACH

Again Dec. 1 is upon us. It has been 25 years since AIDS first hit the newspapers. No, AIDS has not gone away. Everyday there are 21,000 new infections in the world. What have we learned? Where are we going? Who will be next?

We have learned a lot over the past 25 years. We have new treatments, new ways to test, easier ways to test, no blood needed for the oral antibody test.

Free and confidential testing is offered through SHOUT OUTREACH, Gaudenzia, the Erie County Department of Health and many other community agencies. The answer to where we are going is anybody's guess. We still have the stigma associated with the disease and the attitude that it can't happen to me and the NOT so safe sex.

Who will be next? is a scary thought for those of us who work in the field of HIV/AIDS. Remember those 21,000 new infections daily. No, AIDS is still with us.

Maybe some day, Dec. 1 will be a remembrance day like Veteran's Day or Memorial Day instead of an awareness day.

This year's theme is "Stop AIDS- Keep the Promise-Save the Children". We need to think about World AIDS day. Do something positive. Get Tested. Remember, AIDS you can't give it back once you get it





Meet Miriam Pastor, she has worked with the Alliance for the past 4 years as an HIV educator, speaker, adherence counselor and advocate. You'll find her in both the Erie and Clarion offices.

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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Hàgase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

National News Briefs

by Bob

Rhode Island Gays Can Marry in Mass.

A Rhode Island Superior Court Judge has ruled that gay couples from Rhode Island have the right to marry in Massachusetts because laws in their home state do not expressly prohibit same-sex marriage.

Wendy Becker and Mary Norton, the Providence, R.I., couple who brought the suit argued that a 1913 law that forbids out-of-state residents from marrying in Massachusetts if their marriage would not be permitted in their home state, did not apply to them because Rhode Island does not specifically ban gay marriage. Superior Court Judge Thomas Connolly agreed.

"No evidence was introduced before this court of a constitutional amendment, statute, or controlling appellate decision from Rhode Island that explicitly deems void or otherwise expressly forbids same-sex marriage," he ruled.

Hi Biff, Did you hear that the every 3rd Wednesday, The Guys are gonna start meeting at different places? I think it's gonna be swell! Just give Brian a call at



State Attorney General Thomas Reilly said he would not appeal the judge's ruling. Reilly said appealing the decision would be a waste of time and money.

When Massachusetts became the first state in the country to legalize gay marriage in 2004, couples from many other states headed there to get married. However, Republican Gov. Mitt Romney invoked the 1913 state law and told municipal clerks not to give licenses to out-of-state couples.

After eight couples from six nearby states challenged the law, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that Massachusetts could use the 1913 law to bar gay couples from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont from marrying in the state. However, the court said laws were unclear in New York and Rhode Island.

In July, New York's highest court said that its state law limits marriage to between a man and a woman. Connolly cited the New York court's decision in his ruling, saying that state expressly prohibits gay marriage. That left only the Rhode Island couples free to marry in Massachusetts.

Gay Marriage Advocates to Appeal California Ruling

Gay marriage advocates say they plan to appeal a state appeals court ruling upholding California's ban on same-sex marriage.

The 1st District Court of Appeals recently reversed the March 2005 ruling of a San Francisco trial judge who had struck down the state's law banning gay marriage.

Gay activists in California however, still have another chance to get the state's marriage laws overturned by appealing the issue to the California Supreme Court.

"While we are disappointed that the Court of Appeals ruled against our families, we are confident that we will prevail and that the California dream will be available to all," said Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California. Opponents of gay marriage praised the court's decision.

"The court understood that marriage has a meaning, and that unless you redefine marriage all the argu-

National News Briefs

ments the other side have made are meaningless," said Glen Lavy, an attorney for Alliance Defense Fund, which asked the appeals court to overturn the lower court ruling.

The justices in the 2-1 ruling said the state has gone a long way toward promoting equality for same-sex couples through its domestic partner law, which gives registered couples the same rights as married spouses.

They rejected arguments from gay marriage proponents that such a "separate, but equal" system was discriminatory.

"It is rational for the Legislature to preserve the opposite-sex definition of marriage, which has existed throughout history," Justice William McGuiness wrote.

In a strongly worded dissent, Justice Anthony Kline scoffed at what he said was his colleagues' suggestion that same-sex couples should not be entitled to marry now simply because they had not been permitted to in the past.

"The fact that same-sex couples have traditionally been prohibited from marrying is the reason this lawsuit was commenced," he wrote.

N.J.'s Governor won't sign marriage ban

As the New Jersey Supreme Court prepares to rule on the legality of same-sex marriages in the state, Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine announced that he would not sign any legislation banning same-sex marriage if the court rules that such unions are legal.

While Corzine has said that marriage should be between a man and a woman, he indicated that he would not support any legislation aimed at subverting a court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage.

"If the Supreme Court rules that gay marriage is constitutional, the governor would not sign legislation to take away people's rights," spokesman Anthony Coley told reporters.

While no New Jersey lawmakers have introduced bills to legalize same-sex marriage, several Republicans have introduced bills that would explicitly prohibit it. However, none of these bills have ever received a hearing and there is little popular support in the state for such a move.

New Jersey instituted a statewide domestic partner registry in 2004, and has banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation since the early 1990s.

Washington Sex Scandal Chills Gay Republicans

Gay Republicans say that the email scandal involving former Congressman Mark Foley and underage Congressional pages has hurt their efforts for greater acceptance within their own party.

The controversy has opened a major rift between party moderates and Christian conservatives, increasing fears that the GOP might face major defeats in November's Congressional elections.

Patrick Sammon, executive vice president of the Log Cabin Republicans said recently that the situation has left some homosexuals in his party "feeling under siege, both as gay and lesbian people and as Republicans."

"If Foley broke the law, he should be prosecuted. His sexual orientation is irrelevant to this story," he said. "Predictably, anti-gay groups have used this awful situation to push their divisive agenda," Sammon said. "They are using this scandal to try and score political points."

Conservative Republicans have used the Foley scandal to become more vocal about their wish to exclude homosexuals from their ranks. The conservative Family Research Council said the scandal showed that the party's efforts at inclusiveness had gone too far.

"The Foley scandal shows what happens when political correctness is put ahead of protecting children," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Group. "This is the end result of a society that rejects sexual restraints in the name of diversity," he said.

Washington's gay Republican community includes Congressman Jim Kolbe of Arizona, who disclosed his sexual orientation in 1996, after a gay magazine threatened to out him. It is also reported to include dozens of high-ranking congressional aides, current and former White House staffers, advisers to the Pentagon, press strategists, well-known journalists and influential lobbyists, most of whom choose not to

National News

make their sexual orientation known for professional and personal reasons.

After the scandal broke in the news, Foley acknowledged that he is gay, a secret that he chose not to make public for fear of political repercussions.

"It's definitely a shame that he wasn't able to come out when the issue was just his sexuality," Eric Johnson, an openly gay chief of staff for a Democratic lawmaker in the House who once worked on Foley's campaign for Congress, recently told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel newspaper.

"When he comes out at the same time of these revelations, you can't help that some people will equate (being gay) with being a pederast," he said. "It's not true."

Museum Exhibit Notes Birds and Bees May be Gay

The world's first museum exhibition about homosexuality among animals is displaying documentation of gay or lesbian behavior among giraffes, penguins, parrots, beetles, whales and dozens of other creatures.

The Oslo Natural History Museum in Norway concludes human homosexuality cannot be viewed as "unnatural."

"We may have opinions on a lot of things, but one thing is clear — homosexuality is found throughout the animal kingdom, it is not against nature," an exhibit statement said.

Geir Soeli, the project leader of the exhibition entitled "Against Nature," told Reuters news service that "Homosexuality has been observed for more than 1,500 animal species, and is well documented for 500 of them."

The museum said the exhibition, which opened despite condemnation from some Christians, is the first in the world on the subject.

"The sexual urge is strong in all animals. It's a part of life, it's fun to have sex," Soeli said of the reasons for homosexuality or bisexuality among animals.

One exhibit shows two stuffed female swans on a nest — birds sometimes raise young in homosexual couples. Other exhibits show homosexual activities by whales and giraffes.

Exhibit organizers pointed out that Greek philosopher Aristotle noted apparent homosexual behavior among hyenas 2,300 years ago, but over the years, evidence of animal homosexuality has routinely been ignored by researchers.



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http://gayellowpages.com

Regularly meeting

Always Our Children Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, 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 Nov 15, Dec 15, Jan 15, EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com.

Butler Area Equality Project Nov 22, Dec 27, Jan 24, 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 Ånother (BYKOTA) Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 2, Please check to confirm dates! 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 welcomd* Phone: (814) 724-1832. Email: bykota@eriegaynews.com.

Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD) Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 8++, 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 Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 8, 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 Nov 14 at 7 PM, Nov 16 at 10 AM, Dec 12 at 7 PM, Dec 21 at 10 AM, Jan 9 at 7 PM, Jan 18 at 10 AM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

The Guys Oct 25, Nov 15, Dec 6, Dec 27, Jan 17, Various locations, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together for gay/bi men at local establishments. Contact: Brian. Phone: (814) 825-6203. Email: eriebrian@gmail.com.

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Don't Blame God for Human Acts

by Reverend Richard Moyer

A young man came into my office asking questions about God. Why should he believe in God when there is in so much turmoil and there is injustice and prejudice everywhere? He was also blaming God for so many things that had gone wrong in his own life.

When I gently reminded him that it may well be that the trouble he experienced in his own life was mostly of his own making, and to blame it all on God was not only unfair but not true, he left frustrated by my response.

It is easy to blame God for all that is wrong in the world.

Five innocent Amish children are shot to death in cold blood and we ask, "Where was God when they were lined up against the black board and shot execution style?" That may well be an honest and acceptable question. But, at least in my mind, the more urgent and significant question is, "What is wrong with humanity?"

The writers of the Bible never pretend that there is no evil in the world. Just the opposite is true.

In the very first pages of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, we read about the fall of Adam and Eve, the judgment that came about at the Tower of Babel and the flood of Noah's day.

All have to human selfishness and pride.

Even the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, which is assumed by so many to be about sexuality, really has more to do with selfishness. The prophet Ezekial said that the sin of Sodom was "(refusing) to strengthen the hands of the poor and needy." (Ezekial 16:48-49)

When Jesus talks about Sodom, he indicates that the reason for its destruction was because it was a place "lacking hospitality." (Matthew 10: 14-15: Luke 10: 10-12) Sodom must have been a place where people thought only about themselves and had no concern for those in need.

I have to admit that when I read about the Amish shootings in the newspaper, I thought that

nothing could be more evil than that. This is as bad as it gets.

But then I noticed a smaller article that was recorded in the Erie Times-News. It was about protestors from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. I, of course, had read about them before. Most everyone knows by now that they protest, usually at military funeral, because they are angry at America, a nation that supposedly "tolerates homosexuality".

Surely that assumption would be questioned by many, but the article really had to do with their anger at Gov. Rendell. Evidently, a few weeks ago, he was asked what he thought of them. He called them "insane" – a kind word on Rendell's part.

Because of their anger about his comments, people of the Westboro Baptist Church were going to protest at the Amish funerals because, after all, according to them, Rendell was to blame for the tragedy. God was surely judging him and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by killing Amish children.

Sanity prevailed and the Westboro folk decided against picketing the Amish funerals.

It is true that Westboro Baptist Church is a radical departure from the doctrines and sensibilities of most Baptist churches. What is also true is that hatred and prejudice can make people do and say things that are insane and demonic, even in the name of Christ.

How can Christians, who claim to follow Jesus, so easily ignore his words spoken at the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the peace makers."

When Christian people do just the opposite of what God requires, we can hardly blame God. It is *people* who pervert the Word of God and interpret it to mean what *they* want it to mean.

Hatred, prejudice, fear and instability are *not* attributes of God. Unfortunately, they do often seem to be the attributes of sinful humanity.

Reverend Richard Moyer is the pastor at Community United Church located at W 38th and Cascade.

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All services are free and confidential.

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Candidate Survey - PA State representative

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

PA House District 1

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

Patrick J Harkins (D) Unsure.

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

Patrick J Harkins (D) Unsure.

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

Patrick J Harkins (D) Yes.

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

Patrick J Harkins (D) Yes.

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

Patrick J Harkins (D) Yes.

Not responding from District 1:

Christine E Pontoriero (R). Christine E Pontoriero attended the Pride March/Rally on September 30.

PA House District 2

Not responding from District 2:

Flo Fabrizio (D)

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

PA House District 3

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

John Hornaman (D) I do believe that a marriage exists only between one man and one woman. However, a constitutional process to define this seems onerous at this time.

Tim Reim (Green) No.

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

John Hornaman (D) No — legal rights for couples should only be attributed to a marriage as it has defined it in question number one.

Tim Reim (Green) Yes. Yes.

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

John Hornaman (D) Individual gays and lesbians should be allowed the same adoption rights as anyone, because sexual orientation should not be an issue.

Tim Reim (Green) Yes.

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

John Hornaman (D) Yes —but first, I would study current antidiscrimination law to be sure we're not placing more laws on the books that would only duplicate existing legislation.

Tim Reim (Green) Yes.

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

John Hornaman (D) Of course—the hiring of an individual has to do with their qualifications for the job, and not any other factor

Tim Reim (Green) Yes.

Not responding from District 3:

Matthew Good (R)

PA House District 4

Not responding:

Curt Sonney (R)

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

PA House District 5

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

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

Edward Tonkin (Libertarian) No. I believe that the full throated battle of debate is essential for a free and prosperous Commonwealth. Creating an amendment for just this purpose seems against the principles of the founders of this Commonwealth. I am, however just as against the creation of "same-sex marriage" by judicial fiat. This one has to be debated and won or lost in the legislature

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

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

Edward Tonkin (Libertarian) Civil unions, yes. Same-sex marriage, no, because unlike heterosexual couples, "gay marriage" cannot spontaneously produce children. I support equal legal rights, excepting those pertaining to children, where I feel the biological parents should have greater rights, but in all other ways to civil unions should have the same legal rights as the marriage contract.

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

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

Edward Tonkin (Libertarian) Would prefer children to be adopted by heterosexual couples, but with so many children in need, I believe that homosexual couples should be allowed to adopt. I'm not excited by the idea of anybody, alone, adopting. As to foster care, I'm not sure I'm in favor of that concept altogether, but someone needs to care for these children and God bless anyone willing to serve.

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

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

Edward Tonkin (Libertarian) No. But I am against all antidiscrimination laws. If this is going to be a free and prosperous Commonwealth the individual has to make the right to discriminate, to choose, to distinguish. And if someone wants to be a bigoted, mule headed jerk, well in my view that is his or her right. As to access to public services, there can be no discrimination. The distinguishing phrase is "public," taxpayer funded services.

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

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

Edward Tonkin (Libertarian) Yes, with the caveat if elected I plan on having a very small staff. One cannot reduce the size of government if we don't start at "home" metaphorically speaking. "Set by example, is my motion. So if a bunch of people, from whatever group starts coming around looking for jobs are going to be disappointed by the lack of openings. Not responding:

John R Evans (R)

PA House District 6

Not responding:

Keith Abbott (D); Brad Roae (R)

Three important PA races

by Deb Spilko

GLBT voters have clear choices in three very important races. The following candidates have very strong support from the GLBT community, because of their strong commitment to civil rights:

Ed Rendell for Governor Steve Porter for Congress (3rd District)Bob Casey, Jr. for US Senate

BOB CASEY FOR US SENATE

In endorsing **Bob Casey** for the US Senate the GLBT rights group Liberty PA wrote:

"In what has turned out to be the most important election in our community's history, Liberty PA supports Bob Casey for US



Senate. It is no secret that [opponent] Rick Santorum leads many right-wing attacks on LGBT Americans. As Auditor General and Treasurer, Bob Casey implemented a trans-inclusive employment non-discrimination policy and he supports ENDA at the Federal level. Bob Casey also supports civil unions, second parent adoption, expanded funding for HIV/AIDS programs and opposes efforts to pass an amendment to the US Constitution banning same-sex marriage.

The Capitol Region Stonewall Democrats addressed concerns about Casey having "pro-life" stands regarding abortion. The group's co-chair Judy Chambers said, "Our group is largely pro-choice, but there are clear differences between Bob Casey and Santorum. Bob Casey supports emergency contraception and funding for family planning, as well as sex education that goes beyond 'abstinence until marriage' limits that are unrealistic and discriminate against LGBT and questioning youth."

Rick Santorum, who has held the seat for 12 years, received a 0% rating from the Human Rights Campaign.

For more information:

Casey campaign: www.bobcasey.com Comparison chart www.capitalstonewall.org Santorum campaign: www.ricksantorum.com Human Rights Campaign: www.hrc.org Liberty PA www.libertypa.org

STEVE PORTER CONGRESS - 3RD DISTRICT

In the race for Congress in the third District, **Steve Porter** makes explicit his support for GLBT rights. He spoke at the 2004 Pride rally, and has posted this statement at his campaign website:



"I believe that the current controversy over gay marriage is being confused by the unnecessary linking of civil rights and religious practice. The principle I have stated above says that gay couples should be allowed to enjoy the same legal rights that heterosexual couples enjoy. That is a Constitutional guarantee. However, if any religion were to feel it inappropriate to sanction such a union through its religious services, the right of that religion must also be upheld. Just as the government has no business abridging the civil liberties of the people, it has no business telling a religion what or what not to sanction.

"Finally, should the people of America decide to change the Constitution to prohibit gay unions, they should be well-advised to recall that only once before in the history of our nation has an amendment tried to take away liberties (Prohibition), and that ended in disaster. In the film *How Green Was My Valley*, which won the Oscar for the best picture of 1941, Walter Pidgeon, playing the role of a Welsh minister, chastises his congregation for their cruelty toward a member of the community. He says, 'You have all embraced the vengeance of the Lord, but you have forgotten the love of Jesus.' I feel that in our nation today, the spirit of vengeance and anger has overtaken the spirit of love and kindness, and it is not to our credit. *I am against writing discrimination into the Constitution.*"

Porter's opponent, Phil English (R) earned a 0% approval rating from the Human Rights Campaign

More information:.

Porter campaign: www.porter4congress2006.com English campaign: www.philenglish.org Human Rights Campaign: www.hrc.org

Three important PA races

ED RENDELL FOR GOVERNOR

Governor Ed Rendell had no problem receiving endorsements from GLBT groups like Liberty PA, the Human Rights Campaign, the Stonewall Democrats, and Gertrude Stein Political Club. His record on supporting GLBT rights is solid.



"Throughout his entire career, Ed Rendell has been a courageous advocate for our community," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "He never steps back from a fight. He has always been there for us throughout his years in public service. He has stood proudly with us throughout any of the battles we have taken on in Pennsylvania and across the country."

In its endorsement of Rendell, Liberty PA wrote: 'Governor Rendell has been a friend to the LGBT Community for over 30 years! As Mayor of Philadelphia, he actively supported domestic partnership legislation that

included the first same-gender tax benefit law in the nation. As Governor, he has appointed at least 9 members of the LGBT community to senior staff positions, including 3 Deputy Secretaries, and 19 to boards and commissions. We are proud to support him and look forward to electing him for 4 more years."

Renee Gilinger, State Director of Liberty PA, makes this point: "In the campaign to re-elect our friend Governor Ed Rendell, Lynn Swann is not our biggest threat - it is voter apathy. While we are optimistic about a victory, we also know that we cannot take one single vote for granted! That's why we are spending the remaining days before the election getting out the vote. We need everyone to come out and vote on November 7!"

For more information:

Human Rights campaign: www.hrc.org Rendell campaign www.rendellforgovernor.com Swann campaign www.swannforgovernor.com Liberty PA www.libertypa.org

To Volunteer

The 10th & State Democratic campaign headquarters is shared by the following campaigns:

Bob Casey for US Senate Ed Rendell for Governor Steve Porter for US Congress

Headquarters location:

1002 State Street (10th & State) Erie, PA 16501 (814) 464-0748

Hours:

Monday-thru Thursday: 10 AM - 8 PM Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM Sunday: Closed

Phone Banking:Mon - Thurs: 1 - 4:30 PM 6 - 8 PM

Most of our readers are in Pennsylvania, so the emphasis here has been on that state.

Here are the places for Ohio and New York voters to look for voter information.

NEW YORK voters

The Empire State Pride Agenda has an easy to use 2006 General Election Voter guide at their website. Visit www.prideagenda.org

OHIO voters

Equality Ohio has a list of endorsements at their website http://www.eopac.org/

Mahoning Valley Stonewall Democrats is a group to help the GLBT community be involved in their government in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties. More information visit them at http://mvstonewall.com/ or email mvstonewall@yahoo.com.

Erie Shows its Pride

Report on Erie Pride 2006

By Mike Mahler

The Erie community showed its pride Saturday, Sept. 30, as an estimated 150 people participated in the Erie Pride March and Rally. The event was organized by Erie Gay Pride, Inc. with the support of the Erie chapter of PFLAG and SHOUT Outreach of Gaudenzia.

Some 60 people got the event started by marching down State Street beginning at The Zone and picking up additional marchers at Papermoon, a stop which was co-sponsored by Trance Dance Club. Both The Zone and Papermoon provided snacks for those assembling to march. The event was covered by WICU TV 12, WJET TV 24, WSEE TV 35 and the Erie Times News.

Although the weather forecast indicated rain and thunderstorms, the day was cloudy with only a few sprinkles. Participation from the Erie region was in keeping with past Erie Pride marches and rallies, although up from last year's event.

The Pride Rally at Perry Square featured a full line-up of speakers and entertainment. Dr. Daniel Burdick, president of Erie Gay Pride, Inc., opened the rally with a short speech and served as emcee for the day.

Performing at the rally were local guitarist/singer Bob Bearfield, drag queen Melody – Miss Erie 2006, drag king TJ Knight, fusion dance troupe Temple of Bast and drag queen Rhiannon Angelina – Miss Trance Diva 2006.

Speakers included Joseph Aguglia, Esq., Executive Director of the Erie County Human Relations Commission, Fran Reinsel of SHOUT Outreach from Gaudenzia and Rev. Steve Aschmann, minister of the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. Concluding remarks were made by Mark, treasurer of Erie Gay Pride, Inc. and president of the Erie chapter of PFLAG. The rally was organized by Patrick, vice-president of Erie Gay Pride, Inc.

Lining Perry Square were a number of information and vendor tables. Organizations and businesses represented included the Erie Gay News, Erie County Human Relations Commission, Lambda Car Club, Peter (Erie Book Man), Liberty PA, Sprint,

PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties, SHOUT Outreach, Alive, Erie Sisters, GLOBAL Education Foundation, The Zone Dance Club, Trance Dance Club and Edinboro University's GLBTA student group, Identity.

Local political figures attending the event included Joy Greco, Erie County Council member (Republican); Christine Pontoriero, candidate for PA House District 1 (Republican) and Tim Reim, candidate for PA House District 3 (Green.)

Many volunteers contributed to the success of the march and rally. The event planning committee of Erie Gay Pride, Inc. wishes to thank John, Michael Watson, Lisa, Preston, Dr. Patrick Jones, Michael Lavalle, Dr. Gerry Hoffman, Pat, Brian, Cedric, Mike Lipiec, Deb Spilko, Michael Mahler, James von Loewe, Bob, Rick, members of Identity and Brian, secretary of Erie Gay Pride, Inc. The City of Erie was very helpful with this year's event including David Rocco and the police department. Special thanks to Sprint for the use of Nextel phones to coordinate the event. Special thanks also to Lee Edmondson of Trance Dance Club for organizing the main fundraiser this year. It was sponsored by SHOUT Outreach of Gaudenzia; special thanks to Fran Reinsel. Special thanks to the Erie chapter of PFLAG for sponsoring the city permits for the event. Special thanks also to the Erie Sisters for donating the bottled water. And finally, special thank to Butch Knight and Dynamic Sounds for the donation of the sound equipment and operation.

Anyone who would like to become involved in planning and/or volunteering for next year's Erie Gay Pride March and Rally, please contact Dr. Daniel Burdick at 814.602.0252.

Photos from the event are/will be linked from the Erie Gay News web site at http://www.eriegaynews.com/gallery.php.



Pride March & Rally Pics

Pics from the Pride Erie 2006 March and Rally. Photos were taken by James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, and Mike Mahler.

Many more photos can be seen at the Erie Gay News website.











