April 2007



Buffalo Brunch 2007

by Lynne Tranchell

The annual Buffalo Brunch benefiting the Empire State Pride Agenda will take place at 12 noon on Sunday, April 22 at the Buffalo Convention Center in Buffalo, New York.

Over 500 people are expected to attend this important event, celebrating Buffalo's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community and its friends for over 10 years.

Honorary Chair is Assemblyman Sam Hoyt. Event Co-Chairs are Jeff Platt and Jim Rolls. Tickets are \$50; sponsorships are also available and will provide further support for the Pride Agenda's work in Buffalo and across the state of New York. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased at www.prideagenda.org

The Empire State Pride Agenda is New York's statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and advocacy organization.

For more information about the Brunch, please contact Lynn Tranchell at (716) 698-9782 or email: Lynn.Tranchell@clearahead.com

Drenched Fur Returns!

by Gary Snyder

It's that time of year again! Bears are coming to Erie to get wet and to have fun at Drenched Fur III the third celebration of the original Tri-State area "bear run"! After two successful years of hosting our bear event weekend, the Drenched Fur III committee is excited to once again bring back to our city all the great laughs and furry events.

We realize that some of you might be thinking, "Well, that's all fine... But what are 'bears'? What's a 'bear run'? And what the heck is Drenched Fur?"

The most common definition of a "bear" is a gay/bisexual man who is hairy, has facial hair, and a cuddly body.

However, the word "Bear" means many things to different people, even within the bear movement.

Many men who do not have one or all of these characteristics also identify themselves as bears, making the term a very loose one. Therefore, "bear" is often defined as more of an attitude, a sense of comfort with natural masculinity and bodies that is not slavish to the vogues of male attractiveness in gay circles and the culture at large.

A "bear run" is where bears, their friends, and admirers gather together for fun social events, typically over a weekend.

As for Drenched Fur, that's the name we gave our bear run here in Erie, because one of the major activities of the weekend is to enjoy a wet and wild afternoon at Splash Lagoon. (water park plus bears...)

The run will kick off Friday, March 30 at the Avalon Hotel in downtown Erie at 7 PM. This will be a meet 'n' greet mixer in our hospitality room, where folks can mingle and socialize. The event is open to

(continued on page 4)

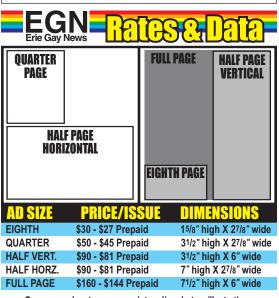


Tennessee bears Matt and Sam at last year's Drenched Fur weekend. This year's Drenched Fur celebration takes place March 30 thru April 1.

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Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words! See page 15 for more info.



Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES. 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 for next issue: Apr 15 (Sunday), will be out night of Tuesday, Apr 24.

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.

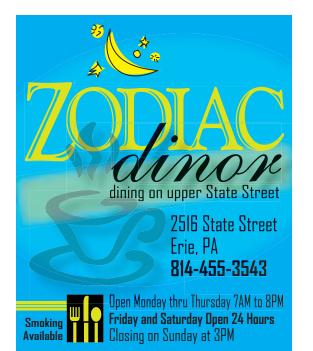
We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with 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.

Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, Jack Walburn, James von Loewe, Kirk Taylor, Jim, Jenna, Marlin McPeters, Charles and Steve Clark for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry Mc-Cumber, John & Paula King, Kirk Taylor, Brian How and Jack for distribution. Bob for proofreading. Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.



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FRIDAY

DRENCHED FUR III JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUNE

ON

Drinks, Dancing, Re-uniting and a Woof of a Good Time! Head to the Oasis Martini Bar and try Bartender Joe's Fuzzy-Naval Martini & One of His Exclusives! Head to the Main Club and Dance the Night Away with DJ Jason G. Spinning. Sets of Disco, Retro, House and Top Hit Music Videos all Night!

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Community News

(continued from front page)

the public, BYOB, and has a \$5 cover charge. In helping to make this year the best and biggest, the event's committee has invited the public to take part in some parts of the weekend. For instance, on Saturday March 31st, if the water park doesn't appeal to you, why not join us for some laughs and great music at the Avalon Hotel, starting at 8 PM. This year our headlining entertainer is Bobaloo from Los Angeles (see page 12)After Bobaloo's performance, we'll be groovin to the sounds and mixes from Guest DJ BearCub from the state of Indiana. DJ BearCub has been putting out stomping beats for years at various events and is excited to come to Erie for the first time ever!

There is plenty of fun to choose from at Drenched Fur III, and if you need more info or need to sign up in advance.

For more information, visit www.drenchedfur.com or contact Gary Snyder, Drenched Fur III Run Coordinator at



gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com or 814.384.0463. We'll see you there!

Every Victim, Every Time

by Angela B. Porfilio

April is a very important month for victims, their family members and all those who work with victims.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed April 22-28. The theme for Victims' Rights Week this year is "*Victims' Rights: Every Victim, Every Time*. This observance allows victim assistance agencies, like the Crime Victim Center of Erie County, to celebrate the progress that has been made on behalf of victims and to rededicate themselves to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Until all victims report crimes, know and exercise their rights, and receive help to rebuild their lives, there is much work to do.

Twenty-three million Americans were victimized last year and estimates are that 70% of sexual assaults are still unreported. The Crime Victim Center of Erie County provided services to 6,593 men, women and children last year whose lives had been impacted by crimes. More than 1,100 of the victims were children – victims of sexual or physical violence.

The Center will be honoring two individuals from the community who have gone "above and beyond" to *reduce the impact of crime* for victims at a luncheon during Crime Victims' Rights Week. The honorees this year are Patti Starvaggi and Elizabeth Hirz.

For more information on any of the April observances, call the Crime Victim Center at (814) 455-9414.



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Allegheny LGBT Colloquium

Second Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Colloquium will be held March 30 and 31, 2007 at Allegheny College, Meadville PA.

The theme of this year's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Colloquium is "Performing Politics: Activism, Inquiry, & Artistry."

The Colloquium is free and open to all; you only need to register. This year's event kicks off at 7:30 PM on Friday, March 30, with world-renowned performance artist Tim Miller. Receptions for students and adults will follow.

To register, up-to-date schedule, and for other information, visit: http://webpub.allegheny.edu/ group/pridealliance/ (Clickable link at the web version of this article at www.eriegaynews.com) **Schedule is subject to change.**

Colloquium Schedule

Friday, March 30th

7:30-8:30 PM Keynote Playshop Theater "Theatre! Sex! Body! Self! A performance & Lecture & Rant By Tim Miller"

8:30-10 PM Colloquium Receptions and Art Display Tippie Alumni Center-Tillotson Room (over 21) or TBD (Student Gathering)

Saturday, March 31st

8:30-9:15 AM CC 301-302 **Student LGBTA Experi**ences in Music

Students of the Music, Gender, and Identity Class At Edinboro University and "Videos of LGBTA Experiences in Music"

9:30-10:30 AM CC 301-302

Issues and Concerns of African-American LGBT Students

DaNine Flemming, Colleen Cooke & Catherine Massey Slippery Rock University

10:45-11:45 AM Concurrent Session CC 301-302 Literary Questions of Queering "Queering the Classics" Michael Broder, City University of New York

"Out of the Box: The graphic Novel as a Bildungsroman for Gay Experience" Richard Schindler, Allegheny College

"Shakespeare, Cross-Dressing, and the Politics of Queer Theatre" Jim Bulman, Allegheny College

10:45-11:45 AM Concurrent Session CC Lobby **Music Performance**

"Tuba Voce: Tales from the Gay Tuba Songbook" Daniel Burdick, Edinboro University, Tuba and Donna Amato, Carnegie Mellon University, Piano

12:15-1:15 PM

Lunch

Performance Workshop with Tim Miller CC 301-302 **Box lunches available for purchase in CC 303** PLEASE ORDER on the registration form

1:30 - 3:30 PM

104 Arter Hall

Interactive Session

Activism in the LGBT Community: A Worldwork Exercise

Beth Robson and Kate Ebersole, Certified Professional Coaches

1:30-2:30 PM

CC 301-302

Visual Media & LGBT Performance

"Derek Jarman's Queer History of the World: An Introduction" Bill Pencak, Penn State University "Acting Her Age: Louise Bourgeois, Robert Mapplethorpe, and the Cut" Charlotte H. Wellman, Edinboro University

"The Gay 90s 70s: A History of Television's First Coming Out Decade" Mark LaPointe, Allegheny College

2:45-3:45 PM CC 301-302 Gender Concerns in LGBT Research

"The Distribution of Female and Male Households" John Golden, Allegheny College

(continued on next page)

Colloquium

(continued from previous page)

"Hypermasculinity in Brass: Trumpeters and Straight Mutes" Daniel Burdick, Edinboro University "Apprenticeship as Moral Idea" Bill Bywater, Allegheny College

4-5 PM

CC 301-302

Activism

"21st Century Activism" Matt Carcella and Students, Princeton University LGBT Center

"Internet Activism" Amy Wiseman, Allegheny College

If you have any questions about the colloquium, feel free to contact a member of the programming committee:

* Courtney Bailey, Department of Communication Arts, Allegheny College (814) 332-2301; cbailey@allegheny.edu * Vesta Silva, Department of Communication Arts, Allegheny College (814) 332-4385; vsilva@allegheny.edu

* John Golden, Department of Economics, Allegheny College (814) 332-3337; john.golden@allegheny.edu

* Aimee Knupšky, Ďepartment of Psychology, Allegheny College (814) 332-6270; aimee.knupsky@allegheny.edu





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 Clarion Office: 15870 Route 322 Suite 2 Clarion, PA 16214 814-764-6066 or 1-800-359-2437

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

"GET TESTED: YOU NEED TO KNOW" EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION

Ofrecemos examinaciones mèdicas, ademàs de servicios mèdicos, educativos, financieros y de apoyo para los que estan infectados de VIH o de SIDA dentro del noroeste de Pensilania. Hay clìnicas en Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville y Farrell con personal especializado en el tratamiento de VIH.

Hàgase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

Domestic Violence: Are You in Danger?

Lisa Baumgardner

Training Supervisor and Volunteer Coordinator, SafeNet, Inc

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is often misunderstood. It can happen to anyone, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Abuse is a **pattern** of manipulative behavior used by one person to gain power and control over another person.

An attack can be physical, sexual or psychological. The attack is **not** due to a lack of self-control – rather the need for complete control (or as much control as possible) over another.

No situation is ever the same; therefore SafeNet advocates say, "*It depends*," when asked what a victim could do about the abuse. There are many **tactics** of power and control. *It depends* on the abusive person, what has worked before – and what is working now – to gain and maintain that power and control.

Physical abuse reported by hospitals and police is literally the *tip* of the iceberg. Much physical abuse goes unreported. Physical attacks are often the last method of control to be added. Emotional / verbal / psychological abuse tactics almost always come first. The control process moves slowly in the early stages of the relationship and is sometimes hard to identify.

Psychological brainwashing erodes away at self esteem, leaving survivors confused. Abusers typically take no responsibility for their actions. They downplay the feelings and opinions of their victims and blame them for the abuse. A typical batterer's apology is this: **"I'm sorry I had to hit you, but if you'd just done what I said, I wouldn't have had to do it."**

A victim of IPV is often afraid of the consequences of leaving. Yet many people say things such as: "If someone hit **me**, I'd just leave! What's the



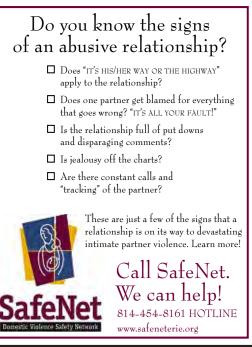
matter with you?" As if it was easy to get away. Abusers will do and say anything to get their victims to come back or stay. They *need* their victims - and often <u>feel</u> that they love them. It's just that their love is not defined in the same way that healthy people define love. **Abusive people do not want their victims to leave.** They threaten and stalk and harass and sometimes, they are willing to kill.

Be careful when trying to help someone living with an abusive relationship. **Tread lightly, and** *never* **give advice!** Listening is by far the best thing to offer. Telling someone "to just leave" could actually get them killed! Leaving **must** be the choice of the survivor – and **well planned** in regards to safety.

Professionals – advocates in the domestic violence field – have the kind of information needed in order for someone to make an informed decision. At SafeNet, we offer confidential assistance in safety planning. We have the resources to help.

Call our 24-hour helpline at 454-8161. We are here.

SafeNet's website is at http://www.safeneterie.org/



Lenten Season reflections

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer

As quickly as time goes by I guess it should not surprise us that we are half way through the Lenten Season. For the Christian, Lent is an important commemoration of the time when Jesus was in the wilderness tempted by Satan for 40 days. For serious Christians, Lent is a time of self-evaluation and repentance. The word repent, in the Greek (the original language of the New Testament) literally means to turn around or to move in the opposite direction. All of us have areas in our lives that need revision, repentance and resurrection. The Apostle Paul even said it about himself when he said that he often does those things that he does not want to do. At one place, he even calls *himself* the "chief of sinners."

Sometimes when we talk about repentance, we think that it is often the *other person* who needs to repent. "You repent; I'll stay the same," is often the way Christian people react to the injustices and prejudices that are so prevalent in our society today.

Jesus warned the Scribes and the Pharisees that they were wrong to notice the speck of sawdust in their neighbor's eye while at the same time not even acknowledging that there is a large board of wood in their own eye. At another place in the Gospels, Jesus chastised the Scribes and Pharisees who sat in the market place and prayed, thanking God that they were not like other people – those who were sinful and unclean! Jesus also dealt with those who were about to stone the woman who was caught in adultery. He said, "You who are without sin, cast the first stone."

When we talk about repentance, we usually are looking at someone else. We are anxious to point out the sins of others. Lent helps us to face the reality that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." The human problem that we face is that our

Dreams of Hope concert

Just a reminder that Dreams of Hope will perform "Gay Youth in Good Faith" March 28, 7:00PM at the Rhoades Center Auditorium of Clarion University-Venango Campus, 1801 West First Street in Oil City, PA. Free Public Performance. Visit www.dreamsofhope.org judgment and evaluation of other people is so often influenced by our own bias. Last week one well known "religious right" preacher declared that Newt Gingrich's adultery was a 'mistake' and Bill Clinton's was a 'sin.'

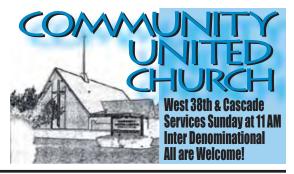
Another very human problem is that we so often see the reflection of our own sins and shortcomings in others. We condemn the other person while condoning our own conveniently forgotten failures.

My father divorced my mother when I was quite young. He married another woman and they attended a local church in their neighborhood. As time went on, a new minister came to their church. Soon after the new minister arrived my father and his wife left their church to attend another. When I asked him why, my father told me that the new minister was divorced and he didn't think that he could condone divorce among the clergy. In other words, it was all right for him; all wrong for someone else!

Lent is not a time to point fingers at other people. It is a time to look deep into our own hearts to discover where we can be honest about our own shortcomings, identify the places where we need to apply the polish and sand away the rough edges of our lives.

In Lent, we also have the opportunity to embrace the magnificent extravagance of God's love, forgiveness and mercy. None of us has the right to throw the first stone. All of us have the responsibility to examine our lives and accept the challenge of Lent; to do better today and tomorrow then we did yesterday.

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



Calendar

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

Mar 15-25 - Cleveland International Film Festival, 31st annual event includes Ten Percent Cinema of LGBT films, Tower City Cinemas. (216) 623-3456 www.clevelandfilm.org

- Mar 21 The Guys get together at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Brian. Phone: (814) 825-6203. Email: eriebrian@gmail.com.
- Mar 21 Welcome Party for Toast of the Town at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM - 10 PM. Trance invites you all to come join our welcome party for the Toast of the Town! She comes to us from the Metropolis Night Clubs and Erie's Theaters. Miss Lady B! Performed by Buddy Pacy. Free food and cake with happy hour drink prices. We will be looking for you! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancedanceclub.com.

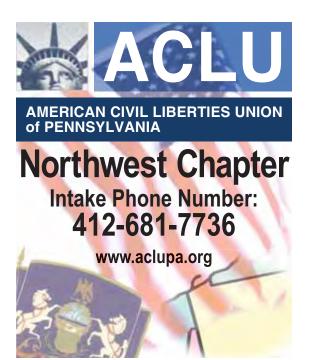
Mar 23 - CD NIGHT at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. House DJ Jason G spinning and releasing *hot* new chart smashing dance and R&B hits. Limited quantity so get here *early*! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to http:// www.trancedanceclub.com.

Mar 30 - Bears Gone Wild!- Zone's Bear Bar Night 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. The Zone welcomes all Drenched Fur III attendees for a night of Food, Furry Friends, and Fun at the Zone's Bear Bar Night—Bears Gone Wild! Compete for great *prizes* and *fun* as we see which Bears have what it takes to take on the Zone



wild-Life! Win passes to Jones Pond Campground. Be on the prowl on our video dance floor or get some grub from the Zone kitchen —open till 2 AM. Cosponsored by Jones Pond Campground, an all-male clothing -optional campground in Angelica, NY. www.jonespond.com Get into the Wild Zone—for some fun in the wilderness! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Mar 30 - Movies that Matter: "Soldier Girl" at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie., 7180 New Perry Hwy, Erie. This R-rated film is based on a true story and is definitely not for children. Barry Winchell, a young soldier, falls in love with a transgendered nightclub performer in the 1990s during the Clinton-era policy of "Don't ask, don't tell." When the romance is revealed to his fellow soldiers, violent passions and aggressions are stirred and the lives of all the soldiers are changed forever. The lead roles, played by actor Troy Garity and Lee Pace, were both nominated for Golden Globe awards. A powerful dra-*(continued on next page)*



Calendar

matization of a real-life hate crime in the vein of Laramie Project (2003) and Boys Don't Cry (1999). **Mar 31-Apr 1 - 2nd LGBT Studies Colloquium at Allegheny College** "Performing Politics: Activism, Inquiry, & Artistry." Keynote address by gay performance artist Tim Miller. Presentations and workshops on LGBT activism, pedagogy and scholarship. Presenters come from a range of institutions, including Allegheny College, Edinboro University, Slippery Rock University, Penn State, the City University of New York and Princeton University. Free and open to the public. More information at http:// webpub.allegheny.edu/group/pridealliance/

Apr 7 - **Easter Bunny Hop at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Hop on down the Bunny Trail into the Zone for our Easter Party! The Easter Bunny will be handing out Easter Candy and *prizes*! Guys—hunt for a nice big basket! Ladies —find a cute cuddly chick! Dance on down the Bunny Trail and join your friends for a "hopping" good time! Happy Easter from everyone at the Zone! Phone:



(814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 8 - Zone open Easter Sunday 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Spend Easter Sunday with your "Gay Family and Friends" at the Zone! Full Kitchen open— 2-for-1 wings every Sunday! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 11 - The Guys get together at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Brian. Phone: (814) 825-6203. Email: eriebrian@gmail.com.

Apr 13 - Total Black Out Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Come play at our Total Black Out Party. We will kill drag as you knew it in Erie! Coming soon, all new entertainment. Headliner names will be in the house and our new and improved Outrageous Show Girls will play up the nights. Long Live the Queens! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com Browse to http:// www.trancedanceclub.com.

Apr 21 - Menspace: 15th Anniversary Party at Jeff & Gary's 1146 Brown Ave, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to http://menspace.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 21 - Freaky Deaky Disco Funk Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Celebrate Saturday Night Fever—Join us on the dance floor as we spend a night under the disco balls groovin' to your favorite disco remixes! Dress to impress—Get out those platform shoes and wide collar shirts for a night of funk-adelic fun! Guess who's birthday it is! Get



Erie Gay News - April 2007

Calendar

into the Zone Discotheque! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 27 - 29 - Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend, www.clawinfo.org, (216) 252-2148.

Apr 30-May 6 - Equality Forum: The Global GLBT Event (Philadelphia) Parties, discussion panels, entertainment, workshops, speakers, films, exhibits, and more. http://www.equalityforum.com

May 2 - The Guys get together at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Brian. Phone: (814) 825-6203. Email: eriebrian@gmail.com.

May 4-6 - **Roundup 2007 (Cleveland)** A fabulous Country/Western weekend featuring beginner and intermediate dance lessons, plenty of cowboys and cowgirls, and a chance to meet new friends. Hosted by Rainbow Wranglers, Cleveland's Country/Western dance group for the GLBT community. As always, this benefit event for the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. Don't miss this opportunity to help a good cause while having a great time! Visit: www.rainbowwranglers.org

May 5 - Ugly Betty's Cinco de Mayo Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Get into your Latin groove as we play a little hot salsa, drink a few cold coronas, and fiesta the night away. Try a margarita or strawberry daiquiri from our frozen drink machine. Be Ugly! Celebrate Diversity! Ugly Betty Look-a-like Contest. Vamos en el Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

May 17-27 - Inside Out International Lesbian & Gay Film and Video Festival (Toronto) http://www.insideout.on.ca Correct border-crossing ID is now required for all visits into Canada.



4-453-4543 • 800-724-1683 • Fax:814-455-3911 E-Mail:silkscreenunltd@yahoo.com Web site: www.silkscreenunltd.com

On stage

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

Mar 16-Apr 7 - The Mystery of Irma Vep in Buffalo at Studio Arena Theatre. See article next page. www.studioarena.org

Mar 24-25 - North Coast Men's Chorus concert: "On the Radio" In Cleveland. www.ncmchorus.org Mar 28 - Dreams of Hope concert 7 PM Rhoades Center Auditorium, Clarion University-Venango Campus, 1801 West First St., Oil City PA. www.dreamsofhope.org

Apr 2 - Indigo Girls in concert - Cleveland, Ohio at Tower City Amphitheater. www.indigogirls.com

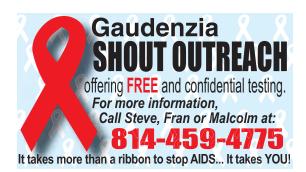
Apr 11-12 - Diana Ross in concert in Niagara Falls, Ontario at Fallsview Casino Resort. Must be 19 years of age or older to purchase tickets or attend Avalon Ballroom performances. Check www.fallsviewcasinoresort.com

Apr 13-14 - Liza Minelli in concert Fallsview Casino in Niagara Falls ON. fallsviewcasinoresort.com 1-888-FALLSVU www.officiallizaminnelli.com/

May 18-Jun 23 - "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" at Roadhouse Theatre www.roadhousetheatre.org/

Jun 19 - "The True Colors Tour" in Toronto at the Molson Amphitheatre. Hosted by Margaret Cho. Cyndi Lauper, Deborah Harry, Erasure, The Dresden Dolls, The Gossip, The Misshapes. Part of 15-city tour to raise awareness of GLBT issues. See story in this issue's "National News briefs." Tour website: http://www.truecolorstour.com/

NOTE: Correct border-crossing ID is now required for all visits into Canada.



Theatre

Comedian Bobaloo headlines in Erie

by Gary Snyder

During the last weekend of March, as a part of Drenched Fur III —Erie's Bear Run, Erie will be welcoming entertainer extraordinaire Los Angeles comedian Bobaloo! This year the DFIII committee is pleased to be bringing one of the most recognized names in the bear community of talent to the Great Lakes region.



Bobaloo has been lighting up the national gay comedy scene for the past five years, playing sold out shows in cities across the US, and recently abroad at the New Bears' Eve celebration in Berlin, Germany! Some have described his comedy styling as "crazy", "offbeat", and "rapid-fire silly." You do not get your standard issue set-up-then punch, dime-a-dozen comic when Bobaloo performs. He mixes his own breed of observational comedy with stories about his crazy life and blends it up his way. This year Bobaloo is also promoting on tour his new and much anticipated *Full Release* on CD and DVD. Feel free to check out his website at bobaloorox.com for info on him, his interests and more.

To enjoy Bobaloo's comedy, come on down to the Avalon Hotel's Niagara Ball Room on Saturday March 31 at 8 PM. *All are welcome to attend (Bears or otherwise!)* Door cover charge is only \$10 and includes the Black and Blue DJ Dance starting at 10 PM showcasing Guest DJ BearCub. For more information, feel free to contact Gary Snyder, Drenched Fur III Run Coordinator at gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com or 814.384.0463. We'll see you there!

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF EGN April 15

Mystery of Irma Vep in Buffalo

by Jennifer Malfa

Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, NY is proud to present *The Mystery of Irma Vep* by Charles Ludlam.

The Mystery of Irma Vep is a campy and hysterical spoof with all the classic elements of a Gothic melodrama. Packed with whimsical wig, costume and personality changes, two actors play the roles of eight different outrageous characters. The mystery begins as Lord Edgar returns to his spooky mansion in England with his naive new bride, Lady Enid. She quickly encounters a host of peculiar things, including a portrait of Irma Vep, Lord Edgar's deceased wife, which hangs over the fireplace and has a presence all of its own. Audiences are kept guessing and laughing until the end while Lady Enid, Lord Edgar and the rest of the cast try to make sense of The Mystery of Irma Vep.

The eight roles take the two actors on so many twists and turns it has been said that there is another show simultaneously happening back stage.

The Mystery of Irma Vep runs March 16-April 7, 2007 at Studio Arena Theatre, 710 Main Street (corner of West Tupper St.), Buffalo, NY 14202. (716) 856-5650 or (800) 77-STAGE www.studioarena.org



Ray Boucher and Robert Rutland play all eight characters in The Mystery of Irma Vep.

by Bob

Students Protest Ban on Gay Blood Donations

Some student groups at Iowa State University have boycotted a campus blood drive in protest over federal rules that prevent some gay men from donating blood.

In past years, the blood drive was part of the university's Greek Week activities and fraternities and sororities were awarded points for participating. This year however, Greek Week organizers decided to stop awarding the blood drive points after members of Delta Lambda Phi, a year-old fraternity for gay and bisexual men, complained that federal rules prohibit their members from taking part in the Greek Week competition.

The US Food and Drug Administration prohibits men who have had sex with other men since 1977 from giving blood. The agency claims that research shows that men who have had sex with men are 60 times more likely to be infected with the AIDS virus than the rest of the general public.

As a result of the Greek Week action, up to 500 blood donations could be lost at a time when Iowa blood banks are seeing shortages due to recent winter storms.

Clinton Courts Gay Activists

In a speech to one of the nation's largest gay rights organizations, Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said that if elected, she wants a partnership with gays.

The New York Senator also voiced her opposition the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy during the speech to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "Don't ask, don't tell" was instituted during her husband's presidency.

"I am proud to stand by your side," Clinton said in her speech which was not announced in advance by either Clinton's campaign or her Senate office. She pledged to maintain a close working relationship with the HRC which last year helped defeat the proposed federal amendment banning samesex marriage. "I want you to know that this is exactly the kind of partnership we will have when I am president," Clinton told the group. "I want you to know that just as you always have an open door to my senate office, you will always have an open door to the White House and together we can continue this journey."

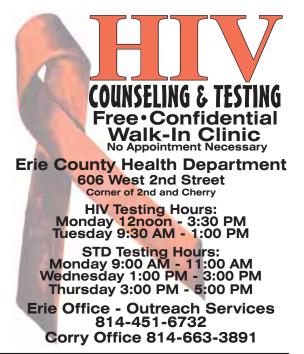
Senator Clinton has openly opposed "don't ask, don't tell" since 1999, when she prepared to run for the Senate. She said the nation would be safer if gay soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen could serve openly.

"This policy doesn't just hurt gays and lesbians, it hurts all our troops and this to me is a matter of national security and we're going to fix it," Clinton said.

Clinton's main rivals for the Democratic nomination, former Sen. John Edwards and Sen. Barack Obama, also favor repealing the policy.

Clinton also criticized President Bush for making political appeals based on gay rights issues, prom-

(continued on next page)



National News Briefs

(continued from previous page)

ising that her presidency would mark "the end of leadership that has politicized the most personal and intimate issues."

HRC vice president David Smith said Clinton's comments were "very well received," but added the group is not endorsing any candidate and does not anticipate making an endorsement "anytime soon."

Gay Couple Gives \$1 Million to UCLA Law School

A \$1 million gift from a gay couple to the University of California, Los Angeles, will be used to help the university establish the nation's first endowed academic chair in sexual orientation law.

The couple, John McDonald and Rob Wright, will assist in funding the chair of research at the school's Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the University of California system has agreed to accept the money, but will review whether establishing a chair matches UC's research and teaching missions.

A current UCLA law school faculty member is expected to assume the chair by September. McDonald and Williams have stressed that they want the chair to be filled by someone who will provide nonpartisan, objective research involving same-sex relationships, adoption and property settlements, the *Times* said.

No strangers to philanthropic causes, Mc-Donald, 74, and Wright, 58, made a previous donation of \$100,000 to the Williams Institute and gave



\$1.5 million to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center a decade ago. They told the *Times* that their efforts are a result of their not being able to share their finances in the same manner as straight couples. They noted that during their 25-year relationship, they have had to make costly inheritance and insurance plans that would be unnecessary for married straight couples.

Headliners Named for Gay Rights Tour

Cyndi Lauper, Deborah Harry and Margaret Cho are some of the entertainers who will be participating in this summer's "True Colors" tour to promote gay rights.

The tour takes its name from Lauper's hit song which to some of her fans had a much deeper meaning.

"A lot of people were saying that when it came out (in 1986) they were teenagers and they were coming out," says Lauper, a longtime gay rights supporter. "They were disowned by their family and their friends and their jobs got all messed up and they were totally alone, and suicidal, and then they heard 'True Colors' and it made them feel hopeful."

The 15-city "True Colors" tour kicks off in Las Vegas on June 8 and ends in Los Angeles on June 30.

"This tour is basically gonna be five hours of some of my favorite bands and me, and Margaret Cho making us laugh, and while we're touring, we're going to be raising awareness," Lauper told *The Associated Press.* "I think people don't know what's going on, that's all."

Besides Lauper, Cho and Harry, the show will feature other guest artists such as Rufus Wainwright in the various cities it hits. The tour is being sponsored by the Logo channel. A dollar from every ticket sold will be earmarked for the Human Rights Campaign, which advocates equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

In addition to Las Vegas and Los Angeles, the tour will make stops in Salt Lake City, Denver, Chicago, Atlantic City, Boston, Washington, New York, Toronto, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, San Diego and San Francisco.

Michael dithers

by Mike Mahler

I hope that everyone has been having a good month. As I write this, we are very close to Drenched Fur. Gary has done a very good job at organizing this, and the other committee members have been terrific. I am thrilled that they have seen such growth over the past few years. When they started, they thought that they would be doing well if maybe 20 guys or so came to Splash Lagoon. As I write this, we have 116 registrations for the run. And please note that for a cover charge that folks can come to the post 2 AM parties on Friday and Saturday, as well as the dance.

Many thanks to James for taking photos of people for our new "Out and About" section. We are going to try to include more casual photos in the print edition, and will shortly have a link to the Out and About photos at www.eriegaynews.com. We already have a photo gallery for past Pride events at the site. Check it out! We love seeing pictures that represent the wonderful spectrum of our local community.

There are a couple of milestones coming up. This year will be the 15th anniversary of both Mens-



EGN reserves the right to refuse any inappropriate classified.

pace and the Pride Picnic. Many kudos to Jeff for hosting the Menspace anniversary on April 21. I am trying to work on making a slide show to show there of the photos we have had over the years.

I am also looking forward to seeing folks at the Pride Picnic this June. What I like best about what we have is that we see such a wide array of different sections of the local GLBT community—as well as our straight friends and allies—who come together to just simply spend some time together. Sometimes the most important ways of building community are the simplest.

As always, we need volunteers to help with running the picnic. You can see more info about the picnic at http://picnic.eriegaynews.com. You can also register for the event and/or volunteer at http:// www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php.

I hit a personal milestone as well with this issue. I used to be involved with a medieval/renaissance group, and was the editor for the local group's newsletter and then the regional newsletter. April 2007 marks the 20th anniversary since I started doing a monthly newsletter. Writing that down makes me feel like I should go lie down or something. ;)

I recently got a decidedly tacky piece of mass mail that had a cover letter telling how people had gotten money and their kids had gotten off drugs when they wrote their prayers on the enclosed (paper) handkerchief. The envelope was festooned with Bible quotes and lots of underlined and double underlined words. There was also a prepaid reply envelope. It was suggested that the recipient return the envelope with their prayers on the handkerchief. So I printed a copy of a full moon ritual on the handkerchief, threw in a copy of EGN and mailed it back to them. Yeah, I felt puckish that day.

UU Garage Sale

Every year, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie throws open its doors and has a great Garage Sale. Instead of a one all-day sale, they'll be having a two-day sale, June 15 and 16.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie is at 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 16508. The phone is (814) 864-9300 and their web site is www.uuerie.org

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http://gayellowpages.com

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 814-825-6203 or E-mail at eriebrian@gmail.com for tri-weekly meeting info!



Before you travel. Check out these websites or Call these Numbers for weather and travel information.

all locations: /EATHER UNDERGROUND www.wunderground.com ex

erie county 452-2000 ext. 7669 (snow)

pennsylvania ROADS AND WEATHER htpp://65.246.225.166/site/site.nsf/mainpage

new york ROADS AND WEATHER www.thruway.state.ny.us/weather/index.shtml ROADS1-800-847-8929

ohio ROADS AND WEATHER www.buckeyetraffic.org ROADS1-888-264-7623



Regularly meeting

Always Our Children Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. First time attendees should call facilitator before attending meeting. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

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

Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD) Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, 218 E 11th St, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Chris Mitchell. Phone: (814) 899-8920. Email: president@erielead.org. Browse to www.erielead.org

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Apr 8, May 14, Jun 11, 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 Apr 10 at 7 PM, Apr 19 at 10 AM, May 8 at 7 PM, May 17 at 10 AM, Jun 12 at 7 PM, Jun 21 at 10 AM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

The Guys Mar 21, Apr 11, May 2, May 23, Jun 13, 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.

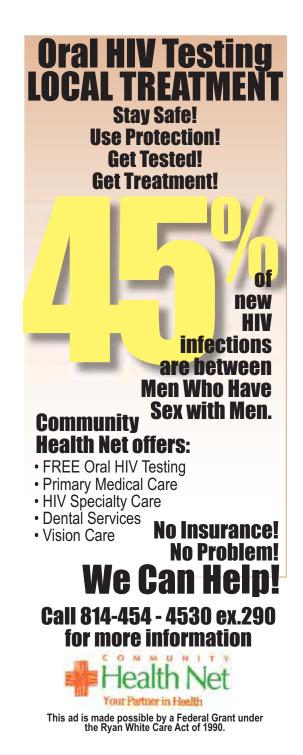
Stay updated!

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

Helpful numbers

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline 1-888-843-GLNH www.glnh.org/index_.html Covenant House Nineline (youth) 1-800-999-9999

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



Out & About

Out and About at Trance in March. At table: Derek McCarthy, Megan Monney, Katie Bell, Jen Rankin, Sarah Sheehen. 2nd row: Alex and Sarah; Jen and Ashante; Nick, Josh and Tiffanie. 3rd row: Shane Thompson; Rhiannon Angelina and Lori Wescoat; John Daly King, Miss Initi Man, Miss Lady B. We couldn't fit all photos, so visit the Erie Gay News website for these and more Photos taken by James von Loewe.













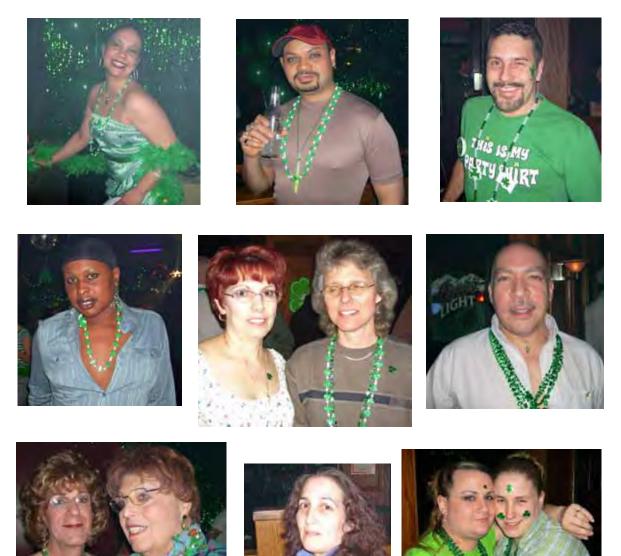


Erie Gay News - April 2007

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Out & About

St. Patrick's Day at the Zone. From left to right, top to bottom: Besos, Angel, Jeff Flagg, Chan Doup, Yvonne and Kathy, Hector Rosa, Paula Wood and Nancy Louise Peterson, Lisa Wykoff, Jen & Holly. These and other photos taken that night can be viewed at the Erie Gay News website. Photos taken by James von Loewe.



Erie Gay News - April 2007

