

August 2007



EGN



Erie Gay News

Ashtagayla on August 18

by Ashtabula County Alliance

The second Ashtagayla Pride Event will be held on Saturday, August 18 at the Harbor Golf Club (formerly the Country Club), 4338 Lake Road West, Ashtabula OH. The event will run from 6 PM to 1 AM. Ticket cost is \$15 each, \$25 couple.

There will be food, Chinese auction, cash bar, games with prizes, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, music and dancing.

The in-ground swimming pool will be open and showers are available. *Proper swimwear required.*

Music provided by Party Times Music. Live music will be provided by Fiona Faulk. Food will be catered by Meola Catering.

Ashtagayla is hosted by the Ashtabula County Alliance. For tickets or more information, visit www.ashtabulacountyalliance.org



WNY Pride at the Pier August 26

by Pride Center of Western NY

The Pride Center of Western New York presents the 2007 Pride at the Pier event, with Lady Bunny (creator of Wig Stock).

The event takes place Sunday, August 26, from 2 to 7 PM at Lasalle Park in Buffalo NY. Take north street all the way west (changes to Porter Ave. Peace bridge entrance) and turn left before the lake.

Additional Information at www.pridecenterwny.org

Pride at the Pier is expected to be one of the two largest gay events of the summer in Buffalo

This is a 21+ event. Beer, sodas and hot dogs are included in price of tickets from 2 - 5 PM. Other food with a full service bar available for cash. Local DJ (probably Bill) with Lady Bunny will be doing a show and then spinning afterwards.

Ticket arrangements are not finalized as this issue goes to press, so contact the Pride Center for more information.

Eric, carrying his rainbow flag in the GLBT contingent at the Millcreek July 4 weekend. See more parade photos at www.eriegaynews.com

PHOTO: James von Loewe

Get Ready to Show Your Pride

by Erie Gay Pride, Inc.

Once again, the Erie GLBT community and its supporters will be showing its pride Saturday, Aug. 25, at the annual Erie Pride March and Rally. The event is being organized by Erie Gay Pride, Inc.

Activities will begin with the Pride March down State Street beginning at The Zone Dance Club. The March will step off at 1 PM and follow State Street down to west Perry Square. Those who do not wish to march the entire length of the route are free to join the marchers anywhere along State Street. The Erie Police Department will be providing a motorcycle escort.

(continued on page 4)

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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: Aug 13 (Monday),
will be out night of Tuesday, Aug 21.

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.

Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words!
See Page 4.

EGN Erie Gay News Rates & Data

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

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 ⁵ / ₈ " high X 2 ⁷ / ₈ " wide
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	3 ¹ / ₂ " high X 2 ⁷ / ₈ " wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 ¹ / ₂ " high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 2 ⁷ / ₈ " wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 ¹ / ₂ " high X 6" wide

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

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and Hires.

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

Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, James von Loewe, Dale and Don for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King, Brian How and Dale 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.

Show us your **SKIN!**

It's a night to show-off your body and body art. Whether you have tattoos or just like a clean canvas, jump into the groove and enjoy the festivities in the August heat! Henna and temporary tattoo art available. Party starts Saturday August 11th at 9 PM.



Another 80's-Our first 80s party was so awesome that we decided to do it again. Packed with music, videos, & prizes from the fabulous 80s. Come dressed as your favorite 80s celebrity and win a prize in our costume contest. Totally! Saturday August 18th

Show us your Pride!

After you march your way to Perry Square, dance your way over to Trance for the After-Pride Party! Rainbow giveaways and prizes. Saturday August 25th.

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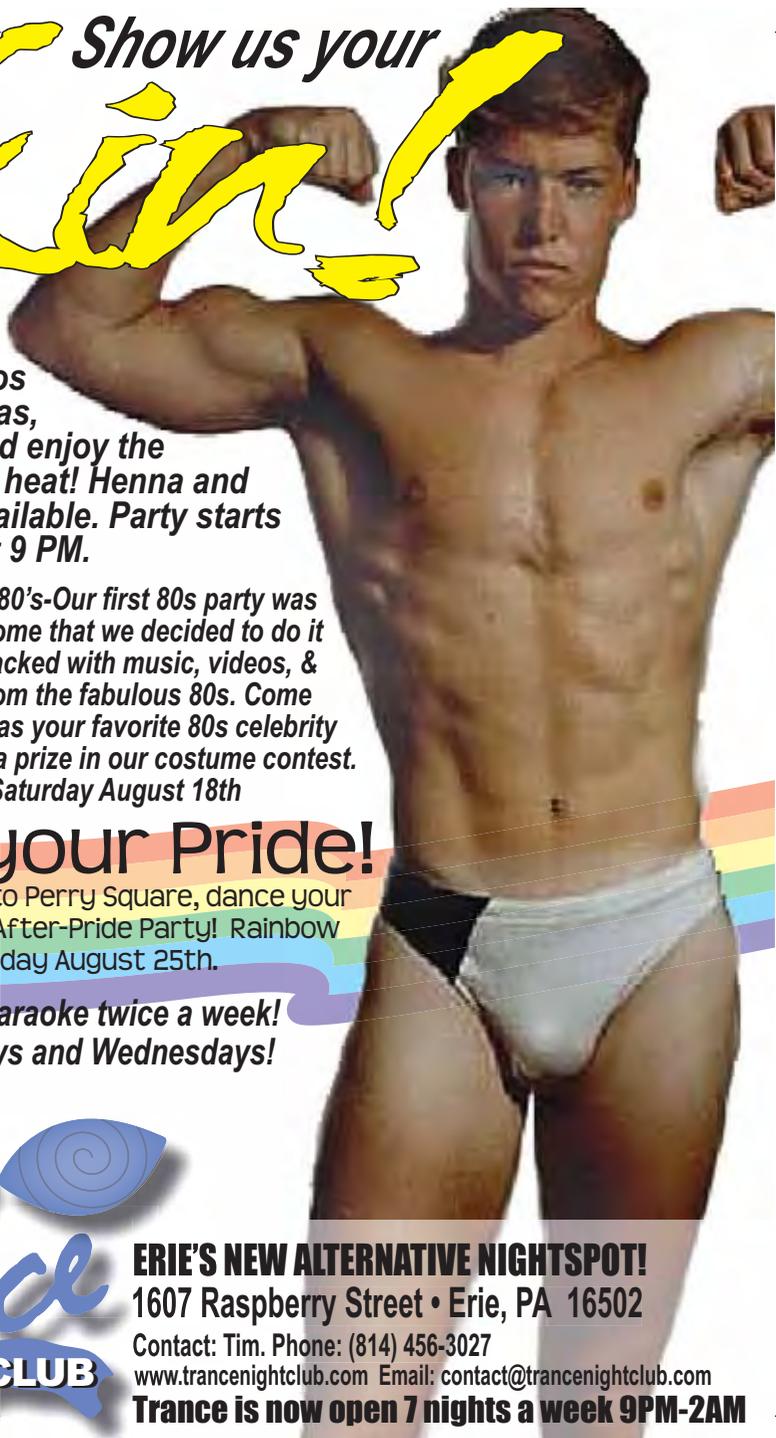
ERIE'S NEW ALTERNATIVE NIGHTSPOT!

1607 Raspberry Street • Erie, PA 16502

Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027

www.trancenightclub.com Email: contact@trancenightclub.com

Trance is now open 7 nights a week 9PM-2AM



Community News

(continued from front page)

The Pride Rally at west Perry Square will feature a full line-up of speakers and entertainment. There will also be food and merchandise vendors as well as informational tables and displays. Everyone is invited to participate and become involved. Volunteers will also be needed.

Anyone who would like more information about the Aug. 25 Erie Gay Pride March/Rally, or who would like to volunteer, may call Brian at Erie Gay Pride, Inc., 1-866-229-1974.

Uncle Pete's Kitchen closes

from *Uncle Pete's Kitchen*

Uncle Pete's Kitchen on Raspberry Street was recently forced to close and is in the process of finding a new location. The building where Uncle Pete's was located was sold.

The landlord opted to exercise a clause in the lease to evict Uncle Pete's so that the new owner of the building could open a different restaurant at that

location. Uncle Pete would like to thank the community for its support while we were open!

Please check the Uncle Pete's Kitchen web site www.unclepeteskitchen.com in the near future as to where the restaurant's new location will turn out to be.

Lobbyist Training Workshop Planned

from *Jake Kaskey, Equality Advocates of Pennsylvania*

In an effort to help the LGBT community become a more effective voice for change, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania and the Value All Families Coalition, will be holding a Lobbyist Training Workshop at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Erie on Sunday, Aug. 26, from 1-3 PM.

All members of the LGBT and allied communities are encouraged to attend this workshop to learn more effective and innovative ways to organize in their communities and lobby decision-makers for LGBT-inclusive legislation. This workshop will provide an opportunity for all people interested in helping to pass statewide non-discrimination legislation to gain the necessary skills required to lobby state legislators. Representatives from Equality Advocates Pennsylvania and the Women's Law Project will facilitate the workshop.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Jake Kaskey at jkaskey@equalitypa.org or 1-866-LGBTLAW ext. 14.



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Church Music Director

Duties— choose music/songs (blend contemporary/traditional), play keyboard/piano during worship and preworship, cantor or work with cantor, lead choir. Compensation based upon skill/experience. Church is nondenominational, approximately 80% gay membership. Visit online for more information: www.allsaintsonline.org Mail resumes: All Saints Community Church, 4530 Niles-Cortland Road, Cortland, OH 44410, Attn: Tina H.

Deadline for next issue is
AUGUST 13

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- Tree Trimming and Removal
- Spring "house" cleaning
- Cemetery Plots Special Needs
- Construction Needs

Mr. Chad Hershey, President
Mr. Scott Palermo, Director of Operations

Community News

SafeNet's Sizzlin' Summer Celebration and Poker Run

from SafeNet

Tickets are now on sale for SafeNet's Sizzlin' Summer Celebration and Poker Run to be held Sunday, Aug. 26, at St. Nick's Grove on Old French Road, just south of East Gore Road. It runs from 9 AM to 3 PM. That will be followed by the Summer Celebration which runs until 9 PM.

The Sizzlin' Summer Celebration will feature refreshments, prizes, beer, games and much more! In addition, there will be a concert by Tanglefoot, one of Erie's favorite musical groups.

Admission is \$15 per person. With your ticket, you will be entered into a drawing for a HDTV/LCD 42-inch Big Screen TV and a gas grill. All proceeds benefit SafeNet.

The event is sponsored by Z102, Classy100, Country 98, ESPN Radio, WJET, Wegman's, National Fuel, Wal-Mart and Erie Brewing Company. For more information call (814) 455-1774 or email rliebel@safenerie.org.

Zone's PRIDE March Fundraiser!

from the Zone

The Zone will be selling Rainbow PRIDE Tropical flowers that you can personalize for a \$1 donation - and will string them up into a giant PRIDE Lei all around the bar! All money raised will be used for the Erie PRIDE March in Perry Square! Buy one for yourself, your friends, your lover, your pet, spell out your name, or one for a secret admirer! Show your PRIDE! Get into the Zone, and buy a PRIDE flower!

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Jean M. Reid, graduating summa cum laude with an award for top scholar in the College of Communications and Information at Kent State University on May 12. Jean carried on her studies while working as a pre-load supervisor at United Parcel Service in Akron, Ohio. She also worked as a bus driver for three semesters. Jean is the daughter of Elizabeth Reid and the late Edward Reid, and sister of Michael Reid, all of Erie.

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Calendar

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

Jul 26-29 - Pittsburgh Black Gay Pride Parties, BBQ, entertainment, games, dance. and more. www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com

Jul 28 - Hawaiian Night at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Trance Night Club is goin' Hawaiian. The beauty and excitement of the Hawaiian Islands is coming to Erie for an evening of dance, music, and exotic food. Get in early for a special Hawaiian Treat! (814) 456-3027. www.trancenightclub.com.

Jul 31-Aug 5 - Cleveland Black Gay Pride celebration Parties, lake cruise, Annual Family Picnic, Gospel Breakfast and Service, and more. Dancing, networking and fun in the sun—help us celebrate this auspicious event. Visit www.bgpccleveland.com

Aug. 2 Seventh Annual Book It! Sale - Benefits Crime Victim Center's 9 AM - 3 PM. 125 West 18 Street, Erie PA (814)455-9414. Used books and more sale! Books, records, tapes, videos, games, puzzles and CDs for all ages and interests. Bake sale and Gift

Auction. The Wolf 93.9 will be here doing live remotes from 10 to noon! Visit www.cvcerie.org

Aug 3-5 - Toronto Black Pride Border-crossing ID required. www.torontoblackpride.com

Aug 5 - Big Gay Boat Ride (Buffalo) Aboard the Miss Buffalo II. Tickets \$20 see the Imperial Court of Buffalo Web Site for information. Boarding at 6:30 PM Sharp! Boat ride is from 7-10 PM with The Dry Dock Party to immediately follow. Proceeds benefit the Charities of Reign 17 of Imperial Court of Buffalo www.ImperialCourtOfBuffalo.com

Aug 5-6 - "For the Bible Tells Me So" (Chautauqua NY) - Film at Chautauqua Cinema. This provocative film explores the way religious conservatives have systematically misled the public in regards to biblical references of homosexuality and how this campaign continues to stigmatize the gay community and threaten America's diminishing separation of church and state. Details at Chautauqua Cinema website www.uniplexcinemas.com

Aug 7-12 - Michigan Women's Music Festival www.michfest.com

Aug 8 2007 - Mas Nova on Warped Tour Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Pavilion, Pittsburgh PA. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Joe Newcomer and Mas Nova! From Joe: " We will be on the Ernie Ball Local Heroes Stage, sometime between noon and 2:30 PM Thanks for voting for us and we hope to see you all there." www.myspace.com/masnova

Aug 9 - Democratic Candidates Forum on GLBT issues Hosted by The Human Rights Campaign and Logo Channel. Broadcast on Logo channel and live streaming from Logo website. See page 14 for more.

(continued on page 9)



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 Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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Corry Office 814-663-3891



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 E-Mail: edillman@howardhanna.com

Erie Gay Pride

MARCH

and Rally

Saturday, August 25



**Marchers
gather at noon at
The Zone Dance Club,
133 W 18th St, Erie PA
Step off for March is at 1 PM.
Rally in Perry Square at 2 PM.**

**Vendors and information
booths, entertainment
Speakers will include
Steve Glassman,
Chair of the PA Human
Relations Commission
For more info,
call Brian at
(866) 229-1974**



Erie Gay

PRIDE

Calendar

(continued from page 6)

Aug 11 - Skin Party at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM. Show us your Skin! It's a night to show-off your body and body art. Whether you have tattoos or just like a clean canvas, jump into the groove and enjoy the festivities in the August heat! Henna and temporary tattoo art will be available. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

Aug 13 - DEADLINE September issue of EGN.

Aug 18 - Ashtagayla (Ashtabula OH) At the Harbor Golf Club (formerly the Country Club), 4338 Lake Road West, Ashtabula OH. 6 PM - 1 AM. Food, Chinese auction, cash bar, games with prizes, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, music, dancing. The swimming pool will be open, and showers are available. Food catered by Meola Catering. Ticket cost: \$15 each, 2 for \$25. For tickets/info, call Chris (440) 344-2203 or visit www.ashtabulacountyalliance.org

Aug 18 - Another 80's Party at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. Our first 80s party was so awesome that we decided to do it again. Packed with music,

videos and prizes from the fabulous 80s. Come dressed as your favorite 80s celebrity and win a prize in our costume contest. Totally! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

Aug 17-19 - Toronto Leather Ball Weekend XIII www.mrlt.com Border-crossing ID required.

Aug 24 - Pre-PRIDE Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) The Gay Rainbow starts at the Zone and ends at Perry Square! Join us for a night of *fun* as we Celebrate Gay Pride! Wear rainbow colors or PRIDE t-shirts and show off your True Colors as we begin Erie PRIDE Weekend!- Join us Saturday at Noon in the Zone parking lot for the start of the Erie Gay PRIDE March!- Show your PRIDE! - Thank you for making us your #1 Gay party destination! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Web: www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Aug 25 - Step-off for the Erie PRIDE March! Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie. 12 - 1 PM. The Gay Rainbow starts at the Zone and ends at Perry Square! Join us pre-march for a light lunch as we assemble to march down State Street to Perry Square!- Wear your Zone or PRIDE t-shirts, bring a banner or sign, and the Zone will supply Rainbow flags and balloons to show off your Gay PRIDE! Check out the Zone PRIDE Booth at Perry Square!- Games, Crafts, Prizes, and *fun!* - Get into the Zone! - Join us later that night for our Sexy BED 3 Party! - A Mid-Summers Night Dream! Phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Aug 25 - Menspace meets (Don's house, in Erie) 7:30 PM. We will be getting together the evening of the March/Rally. Social group for gay/bi men. Con-

Roger L. Lawrence



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Calendar

tact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Web: http://menspace.eriegaynews.com.

Aug 25 - BED 3—A Mid-Summers Night Dream! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St. A Magical Evening in the Enchanted Forest! Come dressed as a Fairy or Magical Forest Creature! Light some candles, get out the massage oil and lube, put on some romantic music, and slip into something Sexy!...BED 3! The Original BED party is Back!... but this time we'll show you what Mother Nature never told you about the Birds and the Bees! What do you Wear to BED? Sexy Lingerie, Silk or Sexy Pajamas, Sexy and Revealing Underwear, or wear a Sheet if you sleep NAKED! Sorry No Nudity! Get into the Zone!... Get under the Sheets... and get into BED!

Aug 25 - Post Pride Party at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Show us your Pride. After you march your way to Perry Square, dance your way over to Trance for the After-Pride Party! Rainbow giveaways and prizes. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. www.trancenightclub.com.

Aug 26 - Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland) Outdoor dance party benefits AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, 1-10 PM. Clifton Blvd. between West 116th & West 117th Sts. (216)221-2333

Sep 8 - Ohio Lesbian Festival (Kirkersville OH) There *will* be a festival this year. Visit www.ohiolba.org

Sep 15 - Menspace meets (Gordon and Bill's, Cambridge Springs, 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.

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Jul 27 - Misty Boyce 5-7 PM

Jul 28 - Angela Orbitz. 1-3 PM

Coming up at Intermezzo

12 Park Place, Fredonia NY 14063 (716) 672-6070
www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com

Aug 12 - Meet the New Artist & Art Gallery Reception Noon to 2 PM. Meet the artist (TBA). Free of charge.

Sep 14 - Friday Live Music Series featuring David Allen Coster, guitarist. Noon to 1:30 PM. Music to dine by. Free of charge. Reservations not necessary, but highly recommended.

Oct 5 - Friday Live Music Series featuring David Allen Coster, guitarist. Noon to 1:30 PM. Music to dine by. Free of charge. Reservations not necessary, but highly recommended.

Oct 14 - Meet the New Artist & Art Gallery Reception Noon to 2 PM. Photographs of Chautauqua County Regional Youth Ballet *The Nutcracker* by Rod Stilger. Free of charge.

Toronto coffee houses

Some of Toronto's many gay-friendly coffee spots.

Lettieri- Coffee / Cafe 77 Wellesley St. In the Gay Village (416) 944-3944.

Bull Dog Coffee 89 Granby Street. In the Gay Village. www.bulldogtoronto.com

Timothy's World Coffee 500 Church Street. In the Gay Village.

Kalendar Koffee House 507 College St near Euclid Ave, in Little Italy. (416) 923-4138.

Linuxcaffe 326 Harbord Street at Grace in west Toronto. (416)534-2116. www.linuxcaffe.ca

Vienna Home Bakery 626 Queen St West (416)703-7278.

Café Bernate 1024 Queen West (416)535-2835.

Rustic Cosmo Cafe 1278 Queen Street West, just west of Dufferin St.

Cafe Taste 1330 Queen West (416)536-7748.

Get Real Cafe 135 Ossington Ave (north of Queen Street). (416)532-4564.

Letters

Thanks from Joy Greco

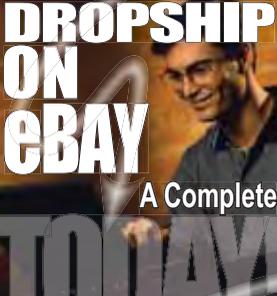
Dear Mike and friends at the Pride Picnic ,
 I so appreciated the sympathy card from all of you about the loss of my husband recently. Your individual messages and signatures gave me great comfort knowing I have such a wonderful group of friends.
 Peace and love,
Joy Greco

On Stage

Aug 1 - Erasure House of Blues Cleveland OH
www.hob.com
Sep 7 - Michael Feinstein in Pittsburgh at Heinz Hall
www.pittsburghsymphony.org
Sep 11-12 Ani DiFranco in Buffalo at Asbury Hall @ The Church, 341 Delaware. Special guests: 9/11 Hamell on Trial, 9/12 Melissa Ferrick. On Sale ticketmaster.com website: www.righteousbabe.com (716)852-5000
Sep 21 - Jamie Anderson In Pittsburgh at Square Cafe with Tracy Drach www.jamieanderson.com

Heading Out of Town?

Looking for bars, accommodations, restaurants, —or just general visitors' information?
 Visit the Resources section at www.eriegaynews.com



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Warm Weather Warning

From Crime Victim Center

As summer progresses and the days get both longer and warmer, there is often an increase in the number of sexual assaults. People are spending more time outside. They are going to the beach and to barbecues, to weddings and graduation parties, all of which have potential risks.

Here are some things to remember:

1. 85% of Sexual Assault victims know their attacker.

2. Alcohol is both the most common and the most accessible date rape drug.

3. No matter what, you always have the right to say "NO" to any sexual contact.

While there is no 100% effective way to prevent sexual assault, there are steps you can all take to reduce your risks:

Stick together - if you go somewhere with friends, make sure you leave with all the same people

you arrived with - and check in with each other from time to time.

Never accept a drink in an open container - always open (and if necessary, pour) your own drink. This goes for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Trust your instincts - if something feels wrong to you, it probably is.

If you think someone else might be in a dangerous situation, get involved. If it seems risky to step in yourself, tell the host of the event what is happening, or if at a bar, notify security. And don't be afraid to call the police if necessary. Know the law. In Pennsylvania, anyone who is drunk or high is considered unable to give consent for sexual activity, regardless of age, gender, or sexual history.

When anyone's body is violated by sexual assault, we are all affected. Working together, we can make it harder for rapists to commit these crimes. For more information contact the Crime Victim Center at 455-9414.

the Rural AIDS Alliance

the NORTHWEST Pa.

We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pa. 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:

Erie Office: Booker T Washington Ctr
1720 Holland St, PA 16503
814-453-5744 or 1-800-400-2437

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

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- Is the relationship full of put downs and disparaging comments?
- Is jealousy off the charts?
- Are there constant calls and "tracking" of the partner?

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National News Briefs

by Bob

Former Leaders of Ex-Gay Ministry Apologize

Three former leaders of the Christian organization Exodus, a ministry that counsels gays to change their sexual orientation, apologized for their efforts, saying although they acted sincerely, their message had caused isolation, shame and fear.

"Some who heard our message were compelled to try to change an integral part of themselves, bringing harm to themselves and their families," the three said in a statement released outside the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

Those making the apology were former Exodus co-founder Michael Bussee, who left the group in 1979, Jeremy Marks, former president of Exodus International Europe, and Darlene Bogle, the founder of Paraklete Ministries, an Exodus referral agency.

The statement coincided with the opening of Exodus' annual conference at Concordia University in Irvine, CA.

Alan Chambers, president of Exodus, said the ministry's methods have helped many people, including himself.

"Exodus is here for people who want an alternative to homosexuality," Chambers said. "There are thousands of people like me who have overcome this. I think there's room for more than one opinion on this subject, and giving people options isn't dangerous."

Founded in 1976, Exodus now includes more than 120 ministries in the United States and Canada and over 150 ministries overseas. Based in Orlando, FL, the group claims to promote "freedom from homosexuality" through prayer, counseling and group therapy.

Canada Honors Pastor Who Fought For Gay Marriage

When Rev. Brent Hawkes conducted a double wedding for two same-sex couples at his Metropolitan Community Church in 2001 and then went to court when Ontario refused to register the marriages, little did he know that his fight would lead to marriage equality across Canada.

Now, Rev. Hawkes has been named to the Order of Canada, the highest civilian honor given in Canada and awarded in the name of The Queen, by the Governor General, her representative in the country.

Hawkes will celebrate his 30th anniversary as pastor of MCC Toronto - a career that continually has seen him at the forefront of the fight for LGBT civil rights.

When Rev. Hawkes performed the groundbreaking 2001 weddings, he wore a bulletproof vest on the advice of police, following a series of threats from socially conservative activists.

When the Ontario government refused to register the marriages, citing federal law, the issue was taken to the Canadian courts where a judge ruled that the prohibition on gay marriage was unconstitutional. The courts gave the Canadian government one year to amend the law. That ruling resulted in federal legislation legalizing same-sex marriage across Canada.

Receiving the Order of Canada took Hawkes by surprise. "I'm used to picketing governments," he told the Toronto *Globe and Mail* newspaper.

Elizabeth Edwards "Comfortable" with Gay Marriage

The wife of a leading Democratic presidential candidate is at odds with her husband over the issue of gay marriage. Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, kicked off San Francisco's annual gay pride parade by expressing support for legalized gay marriage.

"I don't know why someone else's marriage has anything to do with me," Mrs. Edwards said at a news conference before the parade. "I'm completely comfortable with gay marriage."

Mrs. Edwards made the remark in an answer to a reporter's question after delivering a speech at a breakfast hosted by the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Democratic Club, an influential San Francisco political organization.

She conceded that her support puts her at odds with her husband, the 2004 Democratic Vice Presi-

(continued on next page)

National News Briefs

(continued from previous page)

dential nominee, who she said supports civil unions among gay couples — but not same-sex marriages.

“John has been pretty clear about it, that he is very conflicted,” she said. “He has a deeply held belief against any form of discrimination, but that’s up against his being raised in the 1950s in a rural southern town.”

No serious presidential candidate from either major political party has publicly supported gay marriage.

“John believes that couples in committed long-term relationships should enjoy the same rights, benefits and responsibilities regardless of whether they are straight couples or same-sex couples,” Mrs. Edwards said earlier during her speech. “He supports civil unions.”

HRC, Logo Channel to Host Candidate Forum

Many of the leading Democratic presidential contenders have agreed to participate in a forum on gay issues next month, sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and televised on Logo, a cable channel aimed at the GLBT community.

Confirmed participants for the Aug. 9 forum include Sens. Hillary Clinton, D-NY; Christopher Dodd, D-CT and Barack Obama, D-IL, former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, former Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska and Congressman Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio.

The live 90-minute forum will be held in Los Angeles and will be broadcast on Logo, which will also stream the forum live on its Web site.

HRC spokesman Brad Luna called the forum “a historic opportunity for us,” noting it was the first time major presidential candidates had agreed to address gay issues before a television audience. HRC president Joe Solmonese and singer Melissa Etheridge will host the forum.

Lesbian firefighter wins \$6.2 million bias verdict

A jury has awarded \$6.2 million to a Los Angeles firefighter who said she was harassed by colleagues because she is black and a lesbian.

The lawsuit brought against the Los Angeles Fire Department by Brenda Lee also claimed her superiors made derogatory comments about her and forced her to perform strenuous exercises without proper safety precautions because of her race and sexual orientation.

The jury award was the largest in a string of recent settlements of cases alleging discrimination and retaliation against women and minorities within the city’s Fire Department.

A spokesman for the Los Angeles city attorney’s office, Jonathan Diamond, said the city would “review its options going forward.”

Two other firefighters already have won jury awards in their discrimination lawsuits after their cases were tried separately.

In April, a jury awarded \$1.7 million to Lewis Bressler, who claimed he was forced to retire for backing Lee in her claims of discrimination. Firefighter Gary Mellinger, who alleged the department retaliated against him after he helped Lee, settled with the city for \$350,000 after a jury found in his favor.

Los Angeles Councilman Jack Weiss said the verdict was “very alarming to anyone who has a fiduciary responsibility over the city budget.”

“The most important thing is to reform the Fire Department,” he said. “There’s new leadership. ... Hopefully that will prevent these sorts of lawsuits.”



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Michael dithers

Marching in the Millcreek Fourth of July parade

by Michael Mahler

It was a rather small, but nonetheless enthusiastic GLBT contingent who marched in the Millcreek Fourth of July parade, marking the second year of our participation in this event. As before, we marched with the politically progressive contingent, which included the Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD), Erie County Green Party and other groups/individuals. The light rain didn't dampen our spirits.

We were told that our contingent would be marching in between local Christian radio station WCTL and the Mudslingers. I have no clue who the Mudslingers are, and I joked about WCTL and our contingent glaring at each other for the length of the parade route. We later walked past the WCTL van, and they smiled and waved at us and we smiled and waved at them. Everybody played nicely. We actually ended up marching behind a bunch of fire trucks.

Just like last year, lots of people along the route smiled and waved at us. Many people even had their kids wave at us. There were several hundred, if not a couple of thousand people along the parade route. I am sure that we were regarded as just one other contingent in the parade, just like everybody else. At one point, we passed by a couple of women who appeared to be rather butch lesbians. One of them mouthed "thank you" when she waved at us. It was a total day brightener, and it made me feel really good about the whole experience.

James and I carried the Erie Gay News banner. Eric walked behind us with a homemade rainbow flag. The closest thing to negativity that I personally experienced was when Eric mentioned that he had overheard somebody along the parade route say, "God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." I rolled my eyes at how lame this was, and suggested that maybe we should pay for writers to give this guy some new material.

One guy stepped out, smiled at us and took a picture. It felt really nice. Another woman who is a friend of ours ran out and hugged us. Sean Lafferty of WJET TV 24 was announcing contingents at the reviewing stand at the end. He noticed us, and said, "Hi, Mike!" I shot back with a "Hi, Sean!"

Deb took a lot of photos, which are now up on the web site. I am hoping that we can increase our

turnout for next year. Certainly, Pride events like the picnic and the march/rally are important, but it is also important that we participate in events and activities that are not GLBT focused. One reason that I feel strongly about this is that there are a lot of GLBT people who are not aware or in touch with the local community. About a week after the parade, I got a call from a local guy via the Erie Hotline who had seen our small contingent and called looking for resources. Again, another experience that made the whole parade worthwhile for me! I don't think that this person would have found us unless we had made a point to go outside the confines of the usual GLBT venues and events. I felt incredibly happy and safe walking with the Erie Gay News banner past so many smiling and waving faces. It is an experience I highly recommend!

So, next year the Fourth of July falls on a Friday. Join us for a wonderful and uplifting experience!



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August 25 - Erie PRIDE March! -Join us Pre-PRIDE March for a light lunch!

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