

Positively Representing Identities of Diversity in Erie

Roadhouse Theatre Presents the infamously banned **A Hero of One**

by Gary N. Snyder



by Rita Kilbane

The current Roadhouse Theatre production of *Corpus Christi* attempts to answer the question, "What if God was one of us?" Playwright, Terrence McNally (*Love, Valor, Compassion*), places the Christ figure, Joshua in 1950s' Corpus Christi, Texas. Upon his birth, Joshua is burdened with the impossible task of becoming the salvation of the world. However, the world created by the author is not tolerant of the gay Messiah.

Much to the credit of the playwright, *Corpus Christi* vacillates between rip-roaring comedy and heart-wrenching tragedy. It is an "old and familiar story," states one of the actors confirming the fact that the plot reflects the story of Jesus Christ. However, it offers a new perspective, "What if God was a homosexual male?"

This controversial issue has created tension in the venues it has played throughout the country. But, as John, the Baptist (Jason Fried) initiates the ensemble with a christening, they reiterate the notion that this work is a piece of theater and therefore, left to the interpretation of the audience.

Jeffrey Shiffman portrays Joshua. It's quite a challenge for an actor to embrace a role that is universally acknowledged and make it his own. Abandoning the traditional garb and appearance of Christ, Shiffman creates a character who is both endearing and empowering. The skills Shiffman possesses as a performer are infinite.

Jesus was not alone in his crusade to share his father's message and neither is Joshua. He is surrounded by a tribe of faithful disciples. The actors performing as the apostles must conquer many roles.

In the grand tradition of greek theater, all roles are portrayed by men, even the feminine characters. But the transitions are well-crafted with the simple addition of accessories such as sweaters, heels or a hair band and a change in voice tone; nothing overtly dramatic or campy. Michael Mahler (Mary), Jeff Rodland (Peggy Powell), Eric LaPrice (Mrs. McElroy) and Sean Morgan (Patricia Rudd) make the transition effortlessly.

The use of properties allows the others to complete their own metamorphosis. Each individual contributes his own unique talents to enhance the production.

Sean Morgan provides comic relief as Thomas the Actor. In the role of Simon the Singer, Nicholas Smith serenades the audience with an uplifting hymn creating a beautiful and surreal ambience. Jimmy Dean, played by Jeremy Jeziorski, provides the necessary temptation as he becomes Joshua's manifestation of Satan. Thaddeus, The Hairdresser, portrayed by Glenn Teeter, adds the appropriate pre-requisite flair to his incarnation.

In the role of Father McMullen, Rick Blair becomes Joshua's antagonist. Although Blair is not a seasoned actor, he makes an admirable debut. McMullen's henchmen include classmates Billy Brown, Spider Sloan and Dub Taylor. Bob Burford, Jason Fried and Michael Mahler create the roles with vocal abandon. Michael Miller also turns in a great performance as the possessed man.

A welcomed addition to the Roadhouse ensemble is Jody Maas. Maas has performed in other venues, but is making his debut in Erie as Judas Iscariot. The role requires a significant amount of manipulation and charm. Maas triumphs in the role to the delight and chagrin of the ensemble as well as the audience.

The set is minimalist; the curtains have been stripped and the stage is bare with the exception of a few benches and props tables. The costumes are basic at the suggestion of the playwright as the cast is clad in khakis and white shirts.

Corpus Christi has created controversy in virtually every city it has played. In light of all the recent uprisings involving the gay and lesbian community, Erie is very fortunate to have a theater that consistently expresses support for our family.

Curtain rises at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturday through June 16. There will be no performances May 18th & 19th. Also see ad page .

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing a young man I met in a local organization. He presented himself shyly, but his purpose is great. His name is Timothy McNichol. He's a graduating senior in Family Ecology at Mercyhurst College here in Erie, PA. His purpose, or mission if you will, is to make a difference by riding in the Great AIDS Vaccine Ride. Tim McNichol has hereby committed to humbly form a community, 6,000 citizens strong, a militia of Might and Might Be, an army of Will and Will Be, to make AIDS history in the 2001 Palotta TeamWorks AIDS Vaccine Rides, the boldest offensive ever mounted against the world's most relentless, equal-opportunity killer.

"In August 2001, I'll take 6 days out of my life to ride a bicycle 500 miles from Fairbanks to Anchorage Alaska with 2,000 other people in an event called the AIDS Vaccine Ride. We're riding to raise money for three maverick research teams working toward eradication of AIDS by a vaccine. These researchers are Dr. David Ho's team at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York, Dr. Rafirt Ahmed's team at the Emory Vaccine Center at Emory University, and Dr. Irvin Chen's team at the UCLA AIDS Institute. They are all doing groundbreaking research to find a cure to this debilitating and dehumanizing disease. Over 430,400 Americans have died of AIDS in the United States in the last 19 years. Worldwide, that number jumps to 18.8 million. This year, it's estimated that over 34 million people are infected with HIV. In light of that, I felt it was time for me to do something seemingly impossible." continued on page 10

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Akron Couple Attacked

Two gay men in Akron, Ohio, have told police that they were attacked in their own home by intruders who singled them out because they are gay. The [Akron] Beacon Journal reports. Gary Morris and Danny Gaul said that last Friday evening, two men carrying bricks entered their house through an open kitchen door. The intruders threw the bricks, breaking windows and several antique cookie jars. They also threw Morris to the ground, kicking him several times, and shoved Morris's mother, who was visiting, against a wall. Morris told police he heard one of the intruders yell "Pervert!" and "We're going to get you." Morris chased the men, whom he said he did not recognize, from the house, but he didn't follow them because he feared for his life. "I'm OK physically, but mentally I'm not," Morris told the paper. The attack caused about \$1,250 in damage.

*Advocate.com 4*19*01*

P.R.I.D.E.

Newsletter is currently printing and circulating with a run of approximately 425 issues each press and growing thanks to your support and commitment.

Businesses, groups, event organizers, and organizations can get information to the staff about upcoming events and find out how to advertise with us by leaving a message for the staff by email at:

pridenews@hotmail.com

Or you can write us with your thoughts and comments at:

P.R.I.D.E.

3882 Hereford Road,
Erie PA 16510-2457

Wwwhat's Spinnin'?

For those of you who happen to be going out to shake your groove thing, we decided to include the TOP 10 most played songs at The Village Supper Club as provided by House DJ Rashima:

1. *Lady Marmalade* - Pink, Maya, Christina & Lil' Kim
2. *It Wasn't Me* - Shaggy vs. Notorious BIG
3. *Dive In The Pool* - Barry Harris
4. *Straight Up* - Chante Moore
5. *Survivor* - Destiny's Child
6. *Sandstrom* - Da Rude
7. *One More Time* - Daft Punk
8. *All Around the World* - ATC
9. *Let's Ride* - Nelly
10. *Shake That Ass* - Mistikal vs Maxmillion

Most Interesting Quote of Recent:

"After carefully witnessing the Eminem and Elton duet, telecast on the Grammy Awards, I can honestly say that I'm far more concerned with the growing list of acceptable closet cases (Rosie O'Donnell, Ricky Martin, Sean Hayes, Kevin Spacey and Barry Diller among them) than I am with the teaming of the 'unacceptable' (not my word) Homo and the H o m o p h o b e ."

—Michael Kearns writing in Los Angeles' Fab, March 16

Erie's Pride Picnic in June!

Saturday, June 30th Pride Erie Picnic

Once again, the Pride Erie Picnic will be held at Presque Isle State Park at the Beach 11 Pavilion from 2 PM to sundown.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT THE USUAL WEEKEND!

Normally, the Pride Picnic has been the 2nd Saturday in June and this year it is the 5th weekend. Beach 11 is an uncrowded picnic and beach area. The beach is guarded. If you are not sure of where Beach 11 is, stop at the Park's Administration office (near Beach 6.) Also, signs will be posted throughout the park.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Paper plates and plastic silverware will be available. Donations gratefully accepted.

As always, straight friends and families are most heartily welcome. Feel free to bring your children or parents, but parents are responsible for taking care of their kids. (There is playground equipment near the shelter.)

We'll begin at 2 PM with games (including the perennial favorite, volleyball.) The annual Family Portrait will be taken after we eat and anyone who wants to be in the picture can be or not, as they prefer. We will be including the picture on Erie Gay News' home page.. The previous year's picture is at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/2000pridepicnic.html>

Bring lawn chairs, blankets, rollerblades and sunscreen. Volunteers are asked to help with clean up, cooking and set up. If you would like to volunteer, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com or Brian Skelly at (814) 452-6228 or email leelynn@velocity.net.

Because of state law, alcohol and sales by outside vendors are not permitted. Please respect this. If you bring alcohol, or are obviously drunk, you will be asked to leave the picnic.

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P.R.I.D.E.

accepted but we ask that you contact us first for writing guidelines. When sending submissions please include your name, Email address, and phone number for contact. Anonymous submissions will not be printed. Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the P.R.I.D.E. Staff. We will not publish or reproduce any submissions that include the context of anger or discrimination against sexual orientation, gender, race, spirituality, or physical ability. We do not support the exploitation of minors. Subscriptions are available for \$15.00 per year. Check or money orders can be made out to P.R.I.D.E. and mailed to P.R.I.D.E. Subscriptions, 3882 Hereford Road, Erie, PA 16510-2457. Please include your mailing address when sending payment. Subscriptions will begin the month following receipt of payment.

Positively Representing Identities of Diversity in Erie



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Light Appetizer Menu Available
Kitchen Open 9-2

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as she leaves Erie for another venue...

THE
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133 West 18th St. Erie, PA
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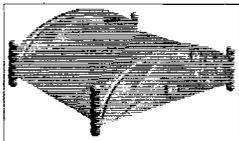
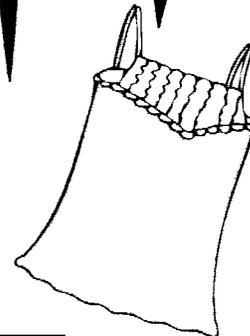


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visit our website: www.thevillageerie.com

Religious Power Helps Prove Faith Is In the Heart

by Gary N. Snyder

Less than one month ago, the *Erie Times News* ran a story on the South Shore Inn of North East. Co-owned by Patricia Graham and Danielle Hazen, South Shore Inn has in the past months seen bad times in the form of dropping business. The article stated that business was failing due to the Rev. Patrick Kennedy, an assistant pastor at First Baptist Church in North East, cautioning parents to keep their teenagers from going to the South Shore Inn "because of the potential for recruitment into the homosexual lifestyle."

Kennedy said he told his congregation of 600 about the restaurant twice, handing out copies of a message promoting the restaurant on a gay Web site.

When I first heard this point of fact, I wondered to myself, "Why is someone cruising the website in the first place?" Yes we have a good resource of information available on the web as well as this publication, but how many of us actually spend time cruising the religious postings to find out who's banning or accepting our 'family' this week?

Graham said she wished Kennedy would have talked to her first before condemning the inn, but Kennedy says he didn't feel the need to do so. Graham continued to state that teens under the age of 19 who attend dances at the inn have to have parents sign them in and out of the dances, and added, "I'm 44 years old, for God's sake. I'm not going to seduce a 13-year-old. Or anybody else. I'm very happy with my life. thank you."

In light of the media coverage, the first press story, plus subsequent editorial responses, the South Shore Inn has resumed fair business. I even received e-mail from an anonymous sender that GAYBC.COM on the internet was going to have a talk show discussing the very issue openly with one of the owners. Unfortunately I did not get to hear the interview and discussion, but I have since become a listener to the internet-based radio station. The Advocate as well as other GLBTA press covered the story.

Why all the hub-a-loo? Fairness to have a business. A core question came about from this point of focus. *Who cares what a person does in loving another as long as they are not harming anyone?* Kennedy of course used references to lines from the 'testament.' Quoting scripture is as powerful as handing out treats was to Pavlov's dog. Educated individuals understand the conjecture through which spirituality is meant to lead us into betterment, not having us give into hate, anger, bigotry, and fear.

In response to the issue of discriminating a business from a preaching of ignorance, two Methodist Churches have organized to help bring together people who believe and support the divine lives we lead. On May 18th, 6:30pm at the South Shore Inn, members of different communities will come together to show faith and love can overcome fear at an open table dinner. Several selections will be available to choose from. I too will be attending with several friends and staff members in helping someone make their dream come true.

I think Pastor Kennedy has yet to learn faith from fiction. As a result, he find himself at the center of controversy and confusion. May he find the peace within himself that will bring clarity to his heart that has been darkened by fear. I would like to personally invite Pastor Kennedy to be a guest at my table of old and yet-to-be made friends. Who knows? He may come to see our humanity and find some of his own.

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Directed by Richard Davis

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The Roadhouse Theatre wishes to recognize the continued support of the following organizations: The Arts Council of Erie • The Erie Community Foundation • Erie Art Museum • Erie Playhouse • Cellular One of Erie
Roadhouse Theatre Website: www.goerie.com/roadhouse



Facts on Hepatitis C the overlooked disease

By Heather M. Malobisky

Hepatitis C is a virus that is spread through blood or bodily fluids. The hepatitis C or HCV virus tends to be overlooked as a sexually transmitted disease in today's society.

There are currently 3.9 million (1.8%) Americans with HCV. 80% of these people have no signs or symptoms of the disease. There is currently no vaccine for Hepatitis C and its long-term effects can lead to serious medical problems.

A person infected with HCV may exhibit symptoms of jaundice (yellow eyes and skin), fatigue, dark urine, abdominal pain, loss of appetite and nausea. The long term effects include a chronic infection, chronic liver disease, and death from chronic liver disease. Persons infected with HCV often need a liver transplant to continue to live.

A person can contract HCV when infected blood or bodily fluids enter the body. This

can be from sharing needles, unclean tools at a tattoo or piercing parlor, mother to newborn, accidental needle sticks at a health care job, and also through sex.

So how do you prevent contracting HCV? The steps are fairly simple.

1. Do not inject drugs. If you do shoot drugs, stop and get into a treatment program; if you can't stop, never share needles, syringes, water, or works.
2. If you inject drugs get vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B.
3. Do not share personal care items that might have blood on them like razors or toothbrushes.
4. Consider the risks if you are thinking about getting a tattoo or body piercing make sure the artist or piercer follows proper cleaning procedures for the tools. You can be infected if the tools have someone else's blood on them.
5. If you are having sex with multiple partners, practice safer sex procedures and

get vaccinated against Hepatitis B. HCV can be transmitted through sex, but this is rare.

Currently the number of new infections of HCV has declined to an average of 40,000 in 1998 as compared to 240,000 in 1981.

HCV is treatable and the current combination therapy is able to rid the virus in up to four out of 10 people. According to the Center for Disease Control the most common form of transmission at present is sharing needles for illegal drug use. The CDC has also stated that persons at high risk for HCV may also be at risk for HIV or Hepatitis B.

If you are interested in being tested for HCV talk to your doctor. For more information you can call the CDC at 1-888-HEP-CDC. This is a toll-free number. You can also go on the internet at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/fact.htm>

or go to:

<http://www.hepatitiscinfo.com>.

INVITATION INFORMAL PRIDE RUN/WALK

Pittsburgh, PA

Saturday, June 16, 2001, 8 AM



in connection with Pittsburgh PrideFest 2001

Pittsburgh Frontrunners, the gay and lesbian running group, invite everyone in Erie to join us for a free, informal run/walk in Schenley Park the morning of Pittsburgh PrideFest. We meet at the Columbus Statue near Phipps Conservatory. We run/walk a two to four mile course.

There will be refreshments served after the run. Free t-shirts (first 10 to arrive) and commemorative coffee mugs (next 50). You do not need to register in advance.

For more information, contact Dave Torrey (412-481-5549; DavidTorrey@aol.com); or Ricardo Cortes (412-243-5696). For more information on our group, see our website at <http://trfn.clpgh.org/pghfr>.

Calendar of Upcoming Local Events

By Michael Mahler of www.eriegaynews.com

May 14-PFLAG Erie Meets PFLAG-ERIE: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets second Monday each month, 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflageriecrawfd@aol.com or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details.

May 15- Pennsylvania Primary Election! Please vote!

May 18-Farewell to Miss Veronica! (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA)

Erie's very own Miss Veronica bids 'adieu' to the community in her last show!! Special guests include The Newly Crowned Miss Erie 2001 - Chrissie Marie, Miss Erie 2001 1st Runner Up - Taylor Morgan, Miss Erie 2001 Congeniality - Miss Ivana, and former Miss Erie's 1998 - Marilyn Powers and 2000 Mazzy La Croix. No cover charge! For more info, call (814) 452-1025 or browse to <http://www.thevillageerie.com>

May 19-"Pajama Party" (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA) No cover charge! For more info, call (814) 452-1025 or browse to <http://www.thevillageerie.com>

May 19-"Leather/Levi Night" (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) Call for info (814) 459-1711.

May 19-10% Network: Chinese Auction (Jamestown NY) Contact Don or Martin at (716) 9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details or with questions.

May 24-Lesbians Out and About meets (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) This is a social group for adult Lesbians for forming friendships, creating alternative social activities, and having fun through meetings and outings. For more info, contact Phone: (814)453-8945 E-Mail: webmistress@lesbiansoutandabout.com or <http://www.lesbiansoutandabout.com>

May 25-"Amateur Stripper Night" (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 459-1711.

May 30-"18 & Over Night" (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) Sponsored by MSM Community Project. For more info, email Tom Lee at aidsoutreach@webtv.net

Jun 2-"The Way of the Storyteller" Renaissance City Women's Choir Concert/Renaissance

City Men's Choir Concert (Kelly-Strayhorn Theatre, East Liberty, Pittsburgh PA) "Through both song and spoken word, the Renaissance City Women's Choir examines the evocative condition of storytelling. With an emphasis on the African American tradition, this special evening promises to be a story which you will be retelling to your friends." For more info, call (412) 362-9484 or write to Renaissance City Choirs, PO Box 10283, Pittsburgh PA 15232-0282

Jun 6-"Always Our Children" meets (Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA) Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091 for more info.

Jun 9-Menspace meets For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Jun 10-Pittsburgh AIDS Walk Begins at 10 AM. The 7th Annual Pittsburgh AIDS Walk is a five-mile pledge walk, rain or shine, through areas of Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, and Oakland, beginning and ending at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park across from Phipps Conservatory. The funds collected from the WALK support people in our community living with HIV/AIDS as well as education and prevention programs in an 11-county area. WALK DAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 8:00 a.m. - Check-in 8:30 a.m. - Interfaith Service 9:15 a.m. - Opening Ceremonies - Speakers - Aerobics Warm-up 10:00 a.m. - AIDS Walk Begins Noon - Post-Walk Picnic 6:00 p.m. - Post-Walk Party at M (Strip District..) Since its inception in 1995, the Pittsburgh AIDS Walk has raised over one million dollars to benefit the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and other AIDS service organizations. It is the largest AIDS fundraising event in the region and the second largest in the state. QUESTIONS? Call the "Walk Line" at 412.242.WALK, or visit our Web site at www.patf.org/walk.htm

Jun 11-PFLAG Erie Meets PFLAG-ERIE: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets second Monday each month, 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflageriecrawfd@aol.com or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details.

Jun 16-"Birds and the Bees Party" (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) Call (814) 459-1711.

Jun 28-Lesbians Out and About meets (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) This is a social group for adult Lesbians for forming friendships, creating alternative social activities, and having fun through meetings and outings. For more info, contact Phone: (814)453-8945 E-Mail: webmistress@lesbiansoutandabout.com or browse to <http://www.lesbiansoutandabout.com/>

Jun 30-Annual Pride Erie Picnic 2 PM to sundown at Presque Isle State Park, Beach 11 Pavilion. Bring a dish to share. Pop, hot dogs, hamburgers and table setting provided. Annual Family Portrait will be taken. (You can be in the picture or not.) Straight friends, families and supporters welcome. No alcohol allowed due to state law. For more info, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Recurring Events

Play: Corpus Christi (Roadhouse Theatre, 145 W 11th St, Erie PA) by Terrance McNally. Corpus Christi is a modern telling of the Jesus story set in Corpus Christi Texas and features gay characters and themes. It was rather controversial when it was first performed. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM from May 4 through June 16, except for weekend of May 18 & 19. For more information call (814) 456-5656 or visit <http://www.goerie.com/roadhouse>

Pride Events

Jun 1- Rainbow Razzmatazz Dinner and Show (Hamlin House, Buffalo, NY) For more info, call Pride Buffalo inc at (716) 879-0999.

Jun 2- Dyke March (Buffalo, NY) For more info, call Pride Buffalo inc at (716) 879-0999 or browse to <http://www.gaybuffalo.org/pride/page2.shtml>.

Jun 16-Cleveland Pride For more info, browse to <http://www.clevelandpride.org/> or call (216)371-0214.

Jun 16-Pittsburgh Pride Fest Pride Parade: 12:00pm in Shadyside/Oakland Pride Fest: Concerts, Performances, Market Place, Food Court Festival: 1:00pm-6:00pm Flagstaff Hill. Schenley Park, Oakland Pittsburgh's annual LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community festival to celebrate our pride, our diversity and our achievements just got bigger. Come celebrate all weekend long in Pittsburgh. Friday, June 15, 2001: SONiA of disappear fear in concert Satur-

day, June 16, 2001: Comedians Bob Smith and Marga Gomez. For more info, browse to <http://pittsburghpridefest.org>

Jun 23-Toronto Pride Dyke March AND...
<http://www.pridetoronto.com/weekdmarch.html>

Jun 24-Toronto Pride Parade 2 PM. Part of week long festival lasting from June 18-24. One of the largest Pride Events in North America! Browse <http://www.pridetoronto.com>, or email parade@pridetoronto.com or (416) 927-7433.

Jun 30-Annual Pride Erie Picnic 2 PM to sundown at Presque Isle State Park, Beach 11 Pavilion. Bring a dish to share. Pop, hot dogs, hamburgers and table setting provided. Annual Family Portrait will be taken. (You can be in the picture or not.) Straight friends,, families and supporters welcome. No alcohol allowed due to state law. For more info, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Groups

10% Network (Jamestown NY social group) Usually meets third Saturdays. Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for more info.

"Always Our Children" First Wednesday at 7 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091 for more info.

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) (Ecumenical gay/lesbian/bisexual Christian Group) 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7. Contact Sue or Julie at (814) 734-3959.

Closet Culture (informal GLBT youth group) "You can find 'Closet Culture' meetings on Monday nights at Cup-A-Ccino's, 18 North Park Row, Erie, PA 16501. We usually meet around 7:30 pm, but people can show up at anytime. Meetings are very informal. Please email Josh at ColorMeJosh83@aol.com or Nick at BowlerBoy82@aol.com or browse to <http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/ErieGayTeens/closetculture.html> for more information! Ages Of members can be anywhere from 15 to 23 (with some exceptions) and members vary in sexuality. We have Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered... and even straight people who are involved regularly in meetings. Not everyone in the coffeehouse is "Gay" on Monday nights, or involved in Closet Culture. And more often than not we are in the smoking room. If you are uncomfortable going to a place with a room full of strangers email one of the contacts above and we can try to arrange to meet beforehand for your comfort.

Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. Write to 1903 W 8th St Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, email eriesisters@yahoo.com or browse www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1614 for more info.

HIV/AIDS Support Group Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 at St. Mark's. Call Cheryl Weber at the St. Martin Center at (814) 455-3786 for more info.

HIV Counseling and Testing (Free) Erie County Department of Health, 606 W 2nd St, Erie PA. Mondays 12 to 3:30 PM, Thursdays 9:30 AM to 1 PM. For more info, call ECDH at (814) 451-6727. Other times can be arranged.

Lesbians Out and About (lesbian/bi women's social group) Meets 4th Thursday of the month at the Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA Additional activities scheduled as well. This is a social group for adult Lesbians for forming friendships, creating alternative social activities, and having fun through meetings and outings. For more info, contact Phone: (814)453-8945 E-Mail: webmistress@lesbiansoutandabout.com or browse to <http://www.lesbiansoutandabout.com/>

Menspace (gay/bi men's social group) Usually 2nd Saturday at 7:30 PM at varying locations. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Parents Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Erie/Crawford Counties support group meets second Monday each month, 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflagerieccrawfd@aol.com or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details.

Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (Western NY) Positive, supportive & fun group for glbtq youth Ages 14-20. Tuesdays in Jamestown. Mondays in Dunkirk/Fredonia. 7-8:30 p.m. Call Greg at (716) 664-4764, Marty at 366-8176 x266 or Chris at 1-888-664-7855.

Web: <http://www.gaychautauqua.org/youth> or email: info@gaychautauqua.org.

Trigon GLBT Student group at Penn State Behrend Open to all (including non-members of Behrend community.) Meets every Friday at noon in Multi-Cultural Center Suite in Reed Union Building For more info, email trigonpsu@hotmail.com or call (814) 898-6030.

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

Your community resource for HIV care and prevention

Office Locations:

Northwest Alliance
1001 States Street
Suite #806

Renaissance Center
Erie PA 16501-1828

nwpaids@erie.net
1-800-400-AIDS

-And-

Northwest Alliance
15898 Route 322
Suite 1

Clarion PA 16412
nwparaa@penn.com
1-800-359-AIDS

Providing Case Management, Education, and Prevention Services in Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango & Warren Counties

Emergency Financial Assistance includes physician and dental care, housing, and nutritional supplements.

My Time in the Presence of Judy

by Gary N. Snyder

Matthew Shepard was the victim of hate. Two young men decided to befriend Matthew and took him outside Laramie, Wyoming to an open field where they tied him to a fence, brutally tortured him, beat him, pistol whipped him and left him alone on a cold October night, after they took his wallet and shoes. Matthew was found 18 hours later by a passing cyclist and eventually received medical attention where his body was connected to machines to sustain bodily functions. He died Monday, October 12, 1998 at 12:53 a.m. in the hospital with his family at his side.

Meeting Judy

When I heard that Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, was coming to Erie to speak, I knew I was going to attend and be reconnected with my real future. As destiny would have it, I was given the opportunity and the pleasure of meeting someone special. For several years now, I have been waiting for this time and fate didn't let me down. I don't expect people to understand what I mean when I talk about fate, destiny, and my future. I simply say that over time I have come to learn to listen that little voice inside me. Every now and then it speaks; this time it said "Go."

I arrived early for the speaking engagement to be greeted by an acquaintance that was going to say opening remarks for the presentation. It was titled 'Journey into a Hate Free Millennium' based on the documentary film from New Light Media. The engagement was to feature three speakers: Brent Scarpo, a Mercyhurst Alumni ('84), who brought the entire 78 minute documentary that he co-produced, Randi Driscoll, a LA singer/songwriter who was here to perform a song she wrote in response to Matthew's death, and Judy Shepard.

Just before the program started, I greeted several acquaintances and friends of mine that had arrived in attendance. Together we discussed the 'ordinance' that is currently tabled (as of this writing) by the local County Council. I grabbed extra copies of the newsletter and inserts in support of passing the ordinance to give to those I saw there. My acquaintance, the opening speaker, previously had dinner with Brent, Randi, and Judy, and informed me that he lightly touched on the subject of the ordinance and did not want to create an atmosphere to 'beat a dead horse,' I agreed. Hence forth, I decided not to discuss the issue with her directly. A better time and place would accommodate itself.

Brent began the program with some personal background stories of attending Mercyhurst and

how Dr. Garvey personally talked with him during freshman orientation to have him stay on at the college; Brent had decided it was not the place for him initially. He went on to explain that after attending his years there, at graduation his mother gave him a silver thimble as his going away present. His mother gave it to him and said that if he could "Fill it full with *love, care, and respect for yourself*, then I can sleep at night and I won't need to worry about you." He continued to explain that every time he ever felt adversity in his life, he would take the thimble out of his pocket (he carries it everywhere with him to this day) and remember what his mother said. She was right; he would survive.

Brent went on to explain, "The worst form of hate in this world is that which you will never know." This could be the job you didn't get, the living arrangement you were denied, the things you wanted to buy - all because of something the other person did not like about you, a personal prejudice - hate. In these circumstances, we are all victims of hate and discrimination. These are living examples of 'the worst form of hate' because it truly is 'that which you will never know.' With that thought in mind, Brent then introduced Randi Driscoll to perform her song that she had written in response to Matthew's death.

And Judy Cried

While we listened to Randi Driscoll sing her song 'What Matters' for everyone there, I sat two seats away from Mrs. Shepard. We had only an arms distance between us. I could tell that she is someone who is not easily adjusted to being near strangers this closely. She's not phobic, just protective - how could one not be after losing her own son?

Judy is said to believe that the song stands for what The Matthew Shepard Foundation is about and believes in. Randi had written the song in response to her grief and torture over seeing the media coverage for what happened to Matthew and his family. (More information on the CD and the song, see page (X).)

Randi started with a personal rendition of Amazing Grace that led into a truly touching performance her song 'What Matters.' My body tingled and the hairs all over stood on end. I had to smile with joy and pride in hearing the craft of talent that came from the heart. Randi truly is artistic and will continue to go very far in helping others understand how hate, intolerance, and ignorance need to be stopped. I think Judy agrees. I know the tears that she shed while listening to Randi spoke volumes about the love and beauty that exists all around.

After her performance, we then suspended time and found ourselves transported into the hearts, the thoughts, and the reality of people we

had yet to know and understand personally. Brent's one question to the audience before the viewing of the documentary was "Are you a part of the problem? Or are you a part of the solution?" Brent feels that if everyone had at least a thimble full of 'Love, care, and respect for yourself' the people who commit crimes of hate, prejudice and discrimination would have nothing to do. For they too, would have a thimble full of love, care and respect for themselves, which would allow us to evolve into a better world.

Brent had arranged for the audience to view the entire 78-minute documentary. He explained that the usual format is to present a 35-minute educational version with more audience participation for the presentation. This other version of the program would be done at Gannon University the following night.

The documentary interviewed Judy and Dennis Shepard, Matthew's parents. It also focused on two other families from victims of hate crimes. He interviewed James Byrd Jr.'s family. James was beaten, chained, dragged behind a truck on 2 miles of dirt and paved roads in Jasper, Texas until his death by decapitation. Then the perpetrators continued to drive his body another mile down a paved road to leave it at the doorstep of a black congregated church across from a black cemetery. They did all this because he was black and they were forming a new hate group in Jasper. James' murder was a message. Brent also spoke with Darrell and Craig Scott, father and brother to Rachel Scott, one of the thirteen victims shot and killed by students known as the 'trench coat mafia' at the Columbine High Massacre in Littleton, Colorado.

The documentary is real and moving. It does not leave the audience to pretend in their own mind what happened to these victims. The families tell the stories from their hearts and their pain. Through their words and tears they reiterate the details of what happened to them and their loved ones. One cannot help but be disturbed by the brutal cruelty that one of our own fellow humans is capable of committing.

To understand how this hate develops and where some of it comes from, Brent also spoke with T. J. Leyden, a former Neo-Nazi Skinhead member. T. J. explained his history attending camps and activities for hate groups. He gave examples of how they would commit hate crimes and choose their victims. Also, he revealed how hate is a taught behavior. It starts young, in his case with his own child, and eventually can kill everyone around them. T.J. is now reformed and teaches students of all ages about hate and how his experiences have helped him eventually see that what he was doing was wrong.

I knew that Judy had seen the documentary before, but Brent's craft in celluloid still touches the heart. I imagine that watching home movie footage she had given to Brent to use brought up memories and more for her. Judy, at the center of

herself, is a human being, a mother, a wife, a person who breathes the same air we do, walks the same streets we do, lives in the same world we do. Her life changed greatly when destiny came to her in a phone call across the ocean to awake her and her husband at 5am in Saudi Arabia. I imagine she relives that day repeatedly at times. I know that the pain of losing a loved one never leaves. It just changes with time, space, and what you do with your life.

That pain resurfaces itself from time to time. It did while watching the documentary. Judy cried quiet tears. Tears that slowly collect and release themselves to travel down a face flush with emotion. Politely, she wiped them away. If I had a tissue, I would have offered one. It may have broken the distance between us, but alas we kept our spaces to ourselves. Sometimes there is something to be said for respect of the individual.

And Judy spoke

After the documentary, Brent touchingly introduced Mrs. Shepard. I think, Judy Shepard is not a woman you would describe as a star or even what one would think of when you meet someone of 'public' celebrity status. Honestly, Judy is simple, quiet, and polite to everyone around her. She's your next-door neighbor you can borrow sugar from if you want. She's an educated mother whose life has taken her on an amazing journey. She is not someone that you would pick out of a crowd to be a person who now tours colleges and cities speaking on hate and its effect on the world we live in. She is just like us. She is a beautiful and humble human being.

She started her segment of the presentation by explaining that she never really is sure what to say. She had not watched the documentary in its entirety for some time. Yet every time she does, it brings forth emotions and feelings that matter to the heart. Judy said that she feels Brent helps answer our questions on 'What is hate? Where does it come from? How does it affect us? and most importantly, What can we do?'

She chooses to travel and speak. Judy brings forth a message. Her message is that now is the 'time to make a change.' There is already too much hate in the world. 'When we let hate go unchecked. . . we let them all down, perpetrator and victim. It is our responsibility to try and make a difference.'

How can we make a difference? Start with Brent's last quote in the documentary, "The change begins with me." Judy feels that the 'glory is within all of us [sic]. Once you let it out, you have to put it to good use.' She illustrated through examples that as one person you can change the world. Mahatma Gandhi was one man. Mother Theresa was one woman. Martin Luther King was one man. Nelson Mandela is just one man.

One the subject of politics, Judy said she prefers to not get involved. But she recognizes that legislation is needed. Considering the ordinance

issue our community is facing, she feels that 'It is shameful that we have to have legislation to say that it is wrong to hate and discriminate.' Her plea is that everyone 'please take a stand. Let the people around you know that it isn't acceptable. This is your responsibility to make the world a safer place.'

Matthew came out to her at the age of 18, three years before he died. He decided in his own time and space when to tell his parents about his feelings on his sexuality and how that was important to him. After explaining how she and her husband dealt with Matthew's coming out, Judy believes that 'Your goal in life is to be the best and happiest you can be. Be who you are. Share who you are with the rest of the world.' Come out. Come out to yourself. Come out to your family. Come out to your friends. Be who you are and don't hide in the closet of fear. Take pride in who you are through and through.

In closing, Judy illustrated her thoughts that if the corporate world of gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals would come out and be true to themselves, their lives, and the world we live in would be a better place. Maybe Matthew would still be here today. 'It's fear and ignorance that killed Matthew. If fear is shed, the violence will go with it.' Acceptance of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals would not allow fear and ignorance to exist as hate.

By being who we are and not hiding that from others, we treat ourselves with dignity and respect. When we treat ourselves with dignity and respect, so will the world we live in. It takes one person to change the world. The journey begins with me. The journey begins with you.

Note:

Internships are available for college and university students currently enrolled in all degrees at The Matthew Shepard Foundation. Interns will be working directly with Brent Scarpo and Judy Shepard in passionately supporting the foundation's mission. Check the website listed below for more information.

On May 4th, 2001 - NBC is to begin shooting *The Official True Story of Matthew Shepard*, produced by Goldie Hawn. This movie is endorsed and supported by the Shepards. Together they have approved the script personally and will be involved with the project for its entirety. Stockard Channing will be portraying the role of Judy Shepard with Sam Waterston portraying the role of Dennis Shepard. Currently they are still casting for the part of Matthew. The movie is expected to air this coming fall so check your local listings for announcements.

The following internet sites can help you be active in stopping hate and the crimes committed:

www.newlightmedia.org
 www.matthewshepard.org
 www.matthewspace.com www.hrc.org
 www.planetout.com www.advocate.com
 www.glaad.org www.pflag.org
 www.stophate2000.org www.glsen.org
 www.youthresource.com www.nglhf.org
 www.unitedagainsthate.org
 www.ncsu.edu/cpsv/save.html

Artist: Randi Driscoll



6/1/2000

Recording Artist Randi Driscoll Donates CD Proceeds to the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

Seeing the report on Shepard's violent death, says Driscoll, "was the straw that broke the camel's back." She wrote the song, "The day he passed away... in about an hour. It all came spontaneously, which never happens. I went into my bedroom and wrote the song about Matthew and the love he represents."

Southern California recording artist Randi Driscoll, so moved by the Shepard tragedy, is donating the proceeds from her CD single, "What Matters" to benefit the Matthew Shepard Foundation and other anti-hate crime charities. "What Matters" is one of the tracks on Driscoll's adult acoustic indie release, *Climb*.

To learn more about Randi Driscoll, visit her website at: www.randidriscoll.com

To order "What Matters" please Download the Order Form (in PDF format) at www.newlightmedia.org and fax it to us, or email our office at: info@newlightmedia.org with your request. Please do not email credit card numbers.

A Hero of One, continued from coverstory

Why do the ride?

I worked in a local hospice with two PWA patients. I saw an ad for the AIDS vaccine rides, and I felt a passion of concern. I realized this is one attempt to do my part to help my community, hopefully to spark an interest in doing something for someone else.

How have you been affected by HIV?

I have had firsthand experience with death and dieing. Now the statistics and headlines become a reality. I now know the truth of this dehumanizing and debilitating disease.

How much money is needed for this commitment?

I signed an agreement that I would raise \$3400 to be able to enter the ride. This gives the project a guaranteed financial result. When I took this project, I was scared at the reality to ride 500 miles. But I am not going to be driven away from fear. I'm not a superhuman. I'm like you, but I choose to be - to do something.

How much have you raised?

Suprisingly, I just learned (at the time of the interview, early April) that I now have met the commitment to ride. This was the biggest challenge and now that it's happened, the rest is for the cause. The research needs the money being raised greatly. (Included with this issue is a copy of the donation sheet for the AIDS Vaccine Ride. The PRIDE staff and Tim invite the readership to help the cause. Help make a difference.)

What do you hope to gain from this?

A greater appreciation for human compassion. Finding the internal power of one. Achieving a dream. I want to bring the healines home, even though they are scary. These (PWAs) are people like you and I. My mother has volunteered to work on the crew for the ride, that is empowering.

How are you training?

I have been gifted with a coach, Gary Thaler from LA, a former rider himself. I'm starting after graduation and will train for 12 weeks straight, right up to the race. I plan to ride around the city and expanding my training to travel back and forth to Buffalo, New York.

What is your aspiration for the future?

After graduation and ride, I hope to move to Portland, Oregon to persue graduate studies in the area of HIV/AIDS, or possibly a future with the Institute of Peace.

Any final thoughts?

I would love to give a big THANK YOU to Gary Maas of Gary's Flower Shop on East 38th Street. He helped, and continues to help me, raise the money needed. His unending contribution, commitment and encouragement are insurmountable. Also I want to thank the Erie community, as well as the faculty and administration of Mercyhurst College.

"Those People"

by *Tim McNichol*

On March 6th, I was sitting the Erie County Courthouse listening to the comments that were being presented to our County Council members on the proposed revision to the pre-existing discrimination policy in Erie County. The new provision would include sexual orientation as a category that would be protected under this law. Remember that having a sexual orientation under this policy is not saying that one agrees or disagrees with homosexuality. It is one more category that will protect individuals in the workplace and give them equal access to public accommodations regardless of their sexual orientation. At the present time, it is legal for someone to be fired because s/he is gay.

As I am sitting listening to the presenters and their comments, I started to cry. A pastor from a local church in the region was at the podium making references between homosexuality and pedophilia. Many in the crowd were enraged at these insensitive and outright blatant false accusations.

Another man stepped up and spoke about how he was in fear for his grandchildren. He said that if gays could not be discriminated against in the workplace then they could get jobs in day cares, social work arenas, and teaching positions. These individuals would then try to persuade his grandchildren to be homosexual or recruit them into the lifestyle. Many references made in opposition to the proposed revision to the ordinance called homosexuals 'those people.' I looked behind me and said, "Who is he talking about?" Have I lost all my sense of respect and individuality because I'm gay? Instead of getting angry, I was saddened. It is so much easier to make false accusations against a group of people rather than naming them specifically.

I am Timothy Martin Richard McNichol, who is a graduating Family Ecology major from Mercyhurst College, who lives in Glenwood Heights, and has two cats and loving partner. Now I am offended that I am referred to as that person who is going to prey on someone's children or be damned to hell.

A 'loving' person got up to speak and he mentioned that "through the love of Jesus Christ we can help you gays and cure you through his power." Please don't assume to know my relationship with my God or higher energy. I WOULD NOT DO THAT TO YOU, please show me the same respect.

Because I am a human being, I am entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of how we view each other and each other's personal lives. I would hope to be recognized on my merits and accomplishments rather being known by some derogatory label. I again, am proud of who I am, who I can be, and who I will be.

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The Gay Virgin ~ Exploring the world we know

by Gary N. Snyder

The Gay Virgin is a new monthly fictional column of real thoughts, moments, experiences and situations from the view point of one man's journey through life. His story constantly reaffirms for him the process of learning; that at we are all virgins the first time we ever do anything.

The universe has a funny way of letting you have wishes, or certain thoughts, come true. In this case, I felt truly compelled to attend two events recently. The first was a reader's theater production of Terrance McNally's *Love, Valour, Compassion*. I rode down with a friend of mine, Troy. He had told me that he wanted to see the reading of the script. I felt compelled to attend. I wasn't really sure why, but something told me to go - like Toronto, but different.

We arrived late - thanks to unclear directions and a lack of sense to read the rather large green exit signs. But we did make it with minutes to spare when we pulled up to our friend's place. The three of us immediately proceeded to the theatre in town. Parking in back of the theatre, we walked through the alley chatting about the show and how we were looking forward to seeing the reading.

As we pass the side stage door, I suddenly stop dead in my tracks stupefied to see standing in the doorway an old college friend, Miguel. I couldn't believe my eyes. We had not seen each other in nearly 4 years. I graduated from college and nearly forgot some of the friendships made during those formative five years.

I called out Miguel's name. He was in the midst of a conversation with friends from the show. He stopped dead himself and looked at me in disbelief. I quickly introduced my friends to Miguel and told him we would see him after the show.

When the production was finished, a rather good one I must say, members of the cast asked if we would like to join them in hanging out at a local bar. They were having karaoke - ooohh!

So we hooked up rides, since we didn't know where we were going. My friend from Franklin, Dean, showed us the way to get to 'The Inn,' a local motel with a western style bar. Within five minutes of arriving, I wasn't sure if I was in heaven or hell. The men here were masculine, my kind of men and yes, there was a 'bear' in the corner booth - notably surrounded by some

women. On the flip side, I also realized that the same men I was attracted to, would be the same ones that would probably kick my ass if I even hinted at making a pass at one of them.

I joked with my Dean and Troy that I probably stuck out like a sore thumb. Dean asked "Why?" I said, "I don't know. How about my look? I have gel-spiked hair. I dress in a coordinating fashion. I have a loud laugh. My mannerisms are not always 'butch.' I have a roving eye. I make men uncomfortable when I look there way. Gee, I don't know, take your pick." We laughed at the humor I was trying in vain to exude.

Now the karaoke was entertaining to say the least. The 'hostess' with the mostest, handled things professionally and appeared to be known well by the crowd. (This 'event' has been happening for some time now Dean informed me.) Personally, I thought our 'hostess' was family too. You know, the slightly hefty set more butch woman. She was in typical jeans, t-shirt, short-cropped black curly hair, and no real feminine overtures to speak of from what I could see.

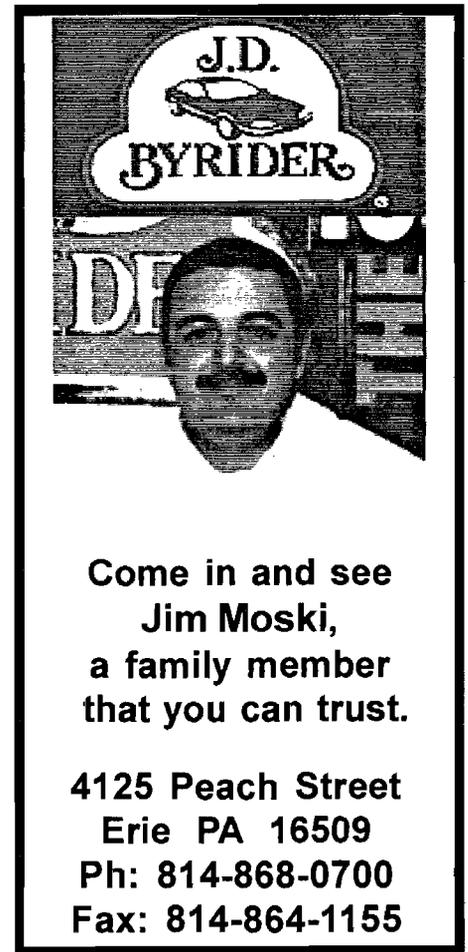
At one point, several folks decided to sing the ever-popular Garth Brooks song 'Friends in Low Places', the concert version. Now being a man of lust for the country bumpkin, I sang along. To my amusement, Dean and Troy joined in. What made me laugh the most was our apparent talent over the trio of inebriated guys and their more in tune lead gal.

I noticed that a couple of ladies standing between us and the 'stage' area turned around every now and then to check out the cacophony coming form behind them. I thought to myself, 'Yeah sweetie, I can sing, I can dance, I look good too. But did you know I could do your hair, give you tips on how to make a killer cheesecake, help you pick out drapes and find the perfect flower for your next centerpiece? That's why you love me and my friends, so let's just get the formality over with and move on. Thank you.'

In truth, I was never so caught in a world I didn't understand or want to be in, in some ways. People here in the community talk about how they didn't like that this bar let lots of 'straights' in and that we don't want their kind here, blah blah blah. BUT, that's the way they feel about us. I could sense it. I saw it in their eyes, their looks across the room toward this 'gaggle of faggles' as I say.

Now it is true that when you have been judged, your heart holds back in fear of letting the judgement continue. Naturally we want to feel comfortable - loved, so to speak. But if we're asking for an open and honest life to be lived, just like everyone in the 'majority' of our society - then I think we must be willing to meet at the same table and enjoy the feast together.

That in mind, I continued to have the best time I could while knowing I could sing Melissa Ethridge's 'I'm the Only One' better then Miss Thing up there on the stage. Truth is, it's about living together in peace that's important. That's why when two days later I ran into my 'first' in Pittsburgh, at a bar I had never been to before, I did something that shocked a lot of people, even him. But that's for another time, until then - have a good time no matter what you do! 

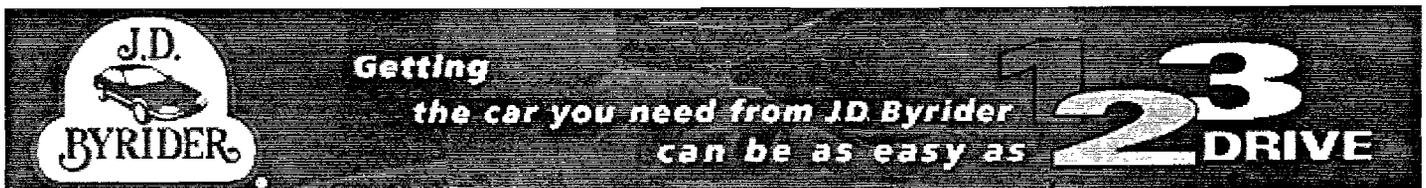


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P.R.I.D.E. Resource Directory

Bars and Restaurants

Sneakers (715)484-8816
100 W. Harrison ST., Jamestown NY 14701-6615
Open 2pm-2am 7 days/ week
Email: artemistoo@mindspring.com

Rascals (716)484-3220
701 N. Main St., Jamestown NY 14701-5031
Open 3pm-2am 7 days/week

BayBreeze (814)835-0808
2727 W Eighth St., Erie PA 16505
Open 3pm-2am Monday-Saturday, 3pm-9pm
Sundays. Email: baybreeze@erie.net

Matthew's Trattoria (814)459-6458
153 E. 13th St., Erie, PA 16503
Open Monday-Friday 11am-2pm, Tuesday-Sat-
urday 5pm-Close. Contact for reservations and
entertainment listing.

papermoon (814)456-7766
1325 State St, Erie 16501
5:00pm to 9:00pm Mon to Wed 5:00PM to
10:00PM Thurs to Sat. Closed Sundays. We plan
to open for lunch first of May M-F and add a
shorter late night menu from 10:00 to 12:00PM
on Thurs to Sat. Live entertainment at the piano
during dinner hours on Fri & Sat. In all Serious-
ness improvisational Comedy Troupe will be on
our stage in the "Moonlight Room" at 8:00PM
on Thursdays and 10:00PM on Saturdays

South Shore Inn (814)725-5522
1120 Freeport Rd (Route 98) North East, PA
16428 Karaoke every Tuesday night @ 7pm.
Make you dinner reservations now.
Email: careleswhisper@landofillusion.com

The Village (814)452-0125
133 W. 18th St., Erie, PA 16501 Daily 9pm-2am

The Zone Dance Club (814)459-1711
1711 State St., Erie, PA 16501
Contact for hours and special events.

Counseling

Virginia Ayres, Ph.D. (814)835-3829
Family Service
Jamestown NY Office (716)488-1971
Fredonia NY Office (716)679-3455
Gay and Lesbian National Hotline
(6pm-11pm Mon-Fri) 1-888-843-4564
Lake Erie Counseling Associates
(814)455-4009
Well Being Center (Deb Monohan)
(814)838-0123

Information Lines

Chataqua County NY
(North) (716)679-3560
(South) (716)484-8434
Erie PA (814)456-9833

Religious Organizations

BYKOTA Be Ye Kind One To Another
(Susan Laurie) Ecumenical. (814)734-3959
Open to Christians of all denominations.

Temple Anshe Hese
(Reform Congregation)
930 Liberty St., Erie PA 16502
(814)454-2426

Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal)
134 W 7th St., Erie PA 16501
(814)452-3779

More Light Presbyterians
Evon Lloyd McJunkin evon@erie.net Meet-
ings are on certain Thurs. at 7:30 P.M. at the
First Presbyterian Church 112 W 3rd St.,
Waterford PA. Email can be sent to:
evon@erie.net (Day) (814)864-1920

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Erie 7180 New Perry Highway
Erie, PA 16509 (814)864-9300

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Jamestown 1255 Prendergast Ave Jamestown NY
14701-3144 (716)488-1902
"Always Our Children" For the Catholic
parents of GLBT children. Supportive, but
for parents only. (814)456-2091

Social Organizations/Youth

10% Networ Jamestown, NY
(Don or Martin) (716)484-9659
Email: donjaye@hotmail.com

Burgh Bears Pittsburgh, PA
<http://www.burghbears.org>
or call the info line: (412)422-8850

Lesbians Out & About Erie, PA Gina
Phone: (814)453-8945 E-Mail:
webmistress@lesbiansoutandabout.com
Hours/Meets: We have occasional meetings
and frequent outings. See the Website for
schedules. This is a social group for adult
Lesbians for forming friendships, creating al-
ternative social activities, and having fun
through meetings and outings.

Menspace in Erie (Michael)
(814)456-9833

Womynspace in Erie
tjunger@toolcity.net (814)456-9833

24 Hour Information & Referral Services

Erie Hotline (814)453-5656
<http://www.ncinter.net/~ejmet/hotline.html>

Hamot Health Center (814)877-6136

St. Vincent Health Center (814)452-5151

Student Organizations/Youth

Covenant House Teen Hotline
1-800-999-9999

Erie Gay Youth Website
<http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/ErieGayTeens>

National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-621-4000

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for Youth in Sexual Minority**
(Western NY). Positive, supportive & fun
group for glbtq youth Ages 14-20. Tuesdays in
Jamestown, Mondays in Dunkirk/Fredonia. 7-
8:30 p.m. Call Greg at (716) 664-4764, Marty at
366-8176 x266 or Chris at 1-888-664-7855.
Web: www.gaychataqua.org/youth
or email: info@gaychataqua.org

Mercyhurst College Alliance
Tim McNichol (814)454-7320

PennState Trigon Abby (814)898-6030

Support Groups

**Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group (TV/
TS/CD)** Send mail to Erie Sisters, 1903 W 8th
St., Suite 261, Erie PA 16505
or check out their website at:
www.geocities.com/0080/Wellesley/1614

GayAA (Bernie) (814)459-7262

Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry, PA)
(814)664-7090 (Luella)

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
PFLAG-DuBois PA
Karen/John Kressley 371-8962

PFLAG-Erie/Crawford Maureen Koseff, PO
Box 133, Haroborcreek, PA 16421 or you can
send Email: pflageriecrawfd@aol.com
Maureen (814)898-8341

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)
453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

**AIDS Bereavement Support Group and HIV/
AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cath. of St. Paul**
452-3779 (Sue Kuebler)

AIDS Network Information
HIV testing at Health Department Monday
Noon-3:30, Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 am to 1 pm
Evening hours by appt. only (814)451-6727

Website Resources

<http://www.gaychataqua.org>
<http://www.eriegaynews.com>
<http://www.geocities.com/womynspace>
<http://www.youthresource.com>
<http://www.stophiv.com>
<http://www.lesbiansoutandabout.com>

Is your Group/Organization Missing? Is there anything we should add? Comments/Suggestions can be sent to:

P.R.I.D.E. 3882 Hereford Road Erie, PA 16510-2457
or you can Email us: pridenews@hotmail.com