

November 2004



EGN



Erie Gay News

Pride March & Rally

by Michael Mahler

About 120 people showed up for the Erie Pride March/Rally on Sunday, October 3. About 100 met on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse for the Family Portrait. The first ever Family Portrait was taken at that location in October 1995. All 3 local TV news stations had coverage of the March and Rally. The Erie Times News also had a front page story the next day about the Rally. Among the chants that marchers used while walking up State Street were: "What do we want? Equal Rights! When do we want them? Right now!", as well as other chants opposing George W. Bush being elected as President. When the March passed by Kerry/Edwards Headquarters at 10th and State, staff stepped out to greet the marchers.

Speaking at the Rally held at the Village Supper Club were Dr. Steve Porter, Democratic Party candidate for US Congress; Tim Dahle, who spoke movingly of becoming an activist after having been repeatedly harassed/assaulted while a high school student in Titusville and having successfully sued the school district for \$312,000; Marakay Rogers, Green Party candidate for Pennsylvania Attorney General; Jocelyn Porter Project (Christine Volk), who sang and played the guitar; Mike Marsico, a gay man from Philadelphia and a representative from the Kerry campaign; Betsy Smith, Libertarian candidate for US Senate; Mark Hoovler and Marcha Vecchio from PFLAG Erie, who presented

(continued on page 4)



Students from SUNY Fredonia came down to attend the Pride March and Rally.

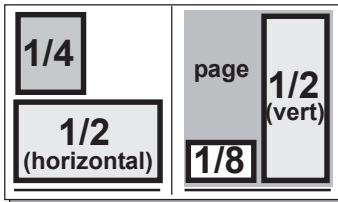
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On the Cover...

SUNY Fredonia students at Erie Pride March & Rally Photo by Deb Spilko

EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
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Half (vert)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	7" high X 2-7/8" wide
Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com
Deadline for ads is the 15th



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www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Graphics/Layout: MAL
Deadline: the 15th of each month.

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie and NW PA Area.

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

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

To Dave Amy, Brian Bohrer, James von Loewe, Peter, Deb Spilko & Tim for folding. Dave S, Marshall Snyder, James von Loewe, John & Paula King, & Jerry McCumber for distributing. Bob & Julie for proofreading. MAL for additional ad layout & etc Thanks!

If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

Trance and the Ramada Inn Downtown

would like to welcome...

"The Sisters of Erie 2004"

Saturday, November 13th

Our 1st Annual Pajama Party

Prizes for the Sexiest and Funniest PJs

Sign Up for Nearly Naked Night

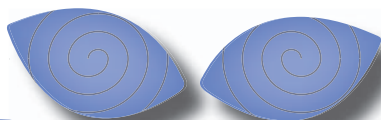
• Girls- Wet T-shirt • Guys - Wet Boxer

Prize Will be Given.

WANTED: Artists and Photographers

Display your Artwork to Sell in Our Martini Bar!

Now
You're in a



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DANCE CLUB**

1607 Raspberry Street
Erie, PA 16502
814.456.3027

**COMING
Trivia Mondays**

Think you know it all...we'll be the judge of that! Bring your smart friends for our LIVE trivia contest. PRIZES for the winning teams!

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*LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
TALENT SHOWS*

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Who will be our 1st TRANCE-vestite?*

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DJs Michael H. and DJ Jai Spin Tuesday thru Saturday.*

Visit our Website at: www.trancedanceclub.com

Pride event

(continued from front page)

community member Jeff Hill with a certificate of recognition and Chris Young of America Coming Together for Victory. PFLAG was kind enough to donate 5 gift baskets for a drawing. They collected these from various donors.

Organizations and vendors with tables set up included: the Crime Victim Center, Erie County Department of Health, SHOUT Outreach, Identity (GLBT group at Edinboro University), the Kerry/Edwards Campaign and Mad Mike's Tattoo and Piercing.

We would like to thank the Village for hosting the event. They had a delightful jazz brunch. The Village Jazz Brunches were on hiatus for the summer, but they are now back to be the 2nd Sunday of the month, beginning on November 13. There is a separate email list for that.

There was a voter registration drive taking place at Erie gay bars since early September. About 70 people were registered to vote or changed their registration info.

Again, we want to stress how important it is for our community to vote on November 2! That was one of the main motivating reasons for the March/Rally.

There was a great turnout by area students. Allegheny College in Meadville, SUNY-Fredonia, Trigon/Penn State Behrend, and Identity/Edinboro University were represented. We also collected 7 pounds of food for the Erie Food Bank.

Thanks go out to Brian Bohrer for contacting students, Bob for working tables, Deb Spilko and Brian Skelly for taking photos, Maureen Koseff and Lynne Rhodes for admission tables, Leslie, Tommy, Jamie and the staff of the Village for hosting/numerous help, and Jayne May for PFLAG prize baskets.



Real Estate Services

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



Halloween Events

Oct 28 - Red Hot Halloween (Pittsburgh PA)

Sanctuary (Strip District), 1620 Penn Avenue, 8 PM. Benefits Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. Costume Contest - Grand prize trip to Kissimmee, Florida! Music provided by element 5 DJs, Psychic readings, Red Hot Pumpkin Contest - Tickets: \$15 advance / \$20 door Online www.patf.org. Sponsored by Pittsburgh City Paper and Maniac Magazine. (412) 242-2500 ext. 122. gforcareta@patf.org.

Oct 29-31 - Halloween Weekend Celebration at The Village

133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net. Browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Oct 29-31 - Halloween Weekend at Queen of Hearts (Warren OH)

132-136 Pine Avenue, SE 44481 www.onecom.net/guraqueen/10-04_003.htm (216) 395-1100.

Oct 30 - Halloween Party "TranceFantasy"

at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St., Erie (814) 456-3027 www.trancedanceclub.com. Special appearance by Rhiannon Angelina, Prizes for Best Costumes.

Oct 30 - Halloween Party at Rascals (Jamestown NY)

701 N. Main (716)484-3220.

Oct 30 - Gates of Hell - Halloween Party at The Zone

"The Devil is hosting our Halloween Party! And we are going to heat things up! Join your friends for a sizzling night of devilish fun as we dance the night away in the Devil's Dungeon! Spirits, demons, and horny devils haunt the caves of the Devil's Lair- 6th Annual Haunted Bar! - Show off that Hot body! Cash prize for best costume! No costume?- Just wear black and red or something with flames on it! We're all going to Hell- so we might as well have fun! Join us for Erie's Best Gay Halloween Party! Only at the Zone! Hot!" 1711 State St, Erie PA. (814) 459-1711.

Oct 30 -Halloween Dance at Youngstown Pride Center (Youngstown OH)

1105 Elm Street . 8 PM - midnight. Admission \$5.00 at the door. Guard on Duty. (330)74-PRIDE www.youngstownpridecenter.com/

Calendar

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

Oct 30 - Pittsburgh Boat Cruise PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE! Boarding is from 5 PM to 5:30 PM. Boat will be back at 9:30 PM. Costume judging, gift giveaway on boat, and additional costume judging at area Pittsburgh bars after the boat cruise. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 (if available) at the boat. Advance tickets can be purchased at the Zone, 1711 State Street, Erie and all Pittsburgh area bars. Sponsored by Pittsburgh Tavern Guild.

Oct 30 - Bonfire Party (Butler PA) 6 PM - 5 AM. Details: Brent Henderson Brenth327@netzero.net

Nov 3 - Always Our Children meets (Erie PA) At Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. (814) 456-2091.

Nov 5- Vertigo Party (Butler PA) "We supply everything: Cups, Ice, Mix, just BYOB." Email: VertigoV@aol.com. Browse to <http://www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov/index.html>.

Nov 6 - Patsy DeCline & Co. at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main (716) 484-3220.

Nov 8 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Nov 8 - In concert at Edinboro: Ellis, Patchouli and Matt Texter At the Hangout (East Theater) in Edinboro. Advance tickets at B-Sides record store in Edinboro and Eclectic Etceteras coffee shop. \$5 / individual \$8 couple. Info: Nikki Hassinger thelocalmusicscene@yahoo.com (814)853-9106 (also more details on page 19).



Nov 13 - Menspace meets (Bob's, 431 Vermont Ave, Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Monthly gay/bi men's social group Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Nov 13- 1st Annual Pajama Party at Trance 'Prizes for sexiest and funniest PJs.' 1607 Raspberry St., Erie (814)456-3027 www.trancedanceclub.com

Nov 14 - Jazz Brunch at The Village 133 W 18th St, Erie PA 12 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net. Browse to <http://www.thevillageerie.com>.

Nov 15 - Deadline for December 2004 edition of Erie Gay News (EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA) Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: 814-456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Nov 17-21 Lake Erie Gala (Erie PA) presented by Erie Sisters at Ramada Inn (formerly Holiday Inn Downtown). gala@ericsisters.org www.ericsisters.org "Our annual November bash and one of the most affordable crossdressing weekends anywhere, is a ton

Wineyard Treasures

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SUNDAYS 12PM - 5PM
CLOSED WEDNESDAY
& MAJOR HOLIDAYS

Calendar

of fab feminine fun. Last year's gender-bending event was fabulous! More than 85 girls attended, and we all had a great time dancing, partying, visiting Veronica's, going on tours..." A number of vendors have been lined up as well.

Nov 19 - Tret Fure in Concert (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA Contact: Kate Hentz. Email: tallfirs@cecomet.net. See article page 18

Nov 20 - 10% Network meets: Silent Auction/ Pot Luck (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: jtown10-admin@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

Nov 20 - 6th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance "Set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice." Nearby events are taking place in Buffalo NY and Columbus OH. Visit www.gender.org/remember

Nov 21- Prime Timers Cleveland Thanksgiving Dinner (Cleveland Hts, OH) Unitarian Universal-

ist Church, 2728 Lancashire Rd, Cleveland Hts. Dinner by Ralph and Jim. PTCleveland@yahoo.com (216) 291-4648 www.ptcleveland.org "Prime Timers is a social group for mature gay men and those who admire them."

Dec 1 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day (see listing of Erie County observances on page 10) or browse to www.worldaidsday.org/

Dec 3 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA) BYOB. Email: VertigoV@aol.com. Browse to www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov/index.html.

Dec 3 - Buffalo Gay Men's Choir (Buffalo) Art Gallery Series Concert 8 PM at Albright-Knox Art Gallery 1285 Elmwood Ave (716)883-1277 Tickets@BuffaloGayMensChorus.com

Dec 12 - Jazz Brunch at The Village (133 W 18th St, Erie PA) 12 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.



FINDLEY LAKE, NY
FINDLEY LAKE, NY

Escape to Findley Lake for "Girls" Night Out

3 shops on Main cordially invite you and your friends to an evening of indulgences.

**LUXURIOUS
GRAND PRIZE
PACKAGE:**
Inn Stay
2 bathrobes
Kama Sutra
Gift set

WHO: Blue Heron Inn, Morgen & Company and Wonderments

WHAT: The unveiling of new product lines, mini massages
fashion show, wish lists, refreshments and pampering

WHEN: Friday and Saturday November 19 & 20

WHERE: Main Street, Findley Lake, NY

TIME: 5 pm to ?

Bringing the FUN back to Findley Lake!

RSVP and receive a free gift! 716-769-7700 or jbbonale@yahoo.com

Calendar

Dec 12 - Menspace meets (Edinboro PA) Gordon, Bill & Doug's, 117 Water St., 6:30 PM. PLEASE NOTE! This is on a SUNDAY, rather than the usual Saturday, and the start time is 6:30 PM. We also ask that you bring a nonperishable donation for the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Dec 13 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) 7 PM - 9 PM. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Regular monthly meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Dec 15 - Deadline for January 2005 edition of Erie Gay News (EGN), 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA

Dec 18 - Erie Sisters meets (Erie PA) Transgender/crossdresser support group. Contact for location of meeting by email, phone or write to LEG, PO Box 1131, Erie PA 16512-0131. Phone: (724) 368-3793.

Email: eriesisters@eriesisters.org. Browse to <http://www.eriesisters.org>.

Dec 20 - 10% Network meets: Holiday Party (John Schillner's, Jamestown NY) (716) 484-1661. Email: jtown10-admin@eriegaynews.com. <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

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- Thai & international fusion cuisine
- Live nightly entertainment

papermoon.

14th & state

www.artaloneendures.com

jazz piano

sushi Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday jazz brunch

An illuminating experience in the arts & fusion cuisine



Meet Jeff Grego, a case manager in the Erie Office, he's been with the Alliance for 4 years and has worked in the HIV field for the past 11 years. He's just one of the dedicated people you'll find at the Alliance waiting to help you!

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural Aids Alliance

"We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania." With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered, please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information.

For more information, contact:

Northwest PA Rural Aids Alliance
1001 State St. Suite 703
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

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

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

Ofrecemos exámenes médicos, además de servicios médicos, educativos, financieros y de apoyo para los que están infectados de VIH o de SIDA dentro del noroeste de Pensilvania. Hay clínicas en Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville y Farrell con personal especializado en el tratamiento de VIH.

Hágase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Buck Fever & Good Honest Food Two one-act comedies. Roadhouse Theatre 145 West 11th Street, Erie, PA Oct. 15 - Nov. 13. Prepaid reservations only (814) 456-5656 www.goerie.com/roadhouse/

Dracula Directors Circle Theatre Renaissance Centre 2nd floor, 1001 State, Erie. Community members Jimi Mehs and Mike Mahler are in the cast. Runs through November 13. 451-1153.

Rocky Horror Show Meadville Community Theatre, Odd Fellows Building, 400 N. Main St., Meadville PA, playing Oct. 22 - Nov. 6 (814) 333-1773.

Girl With a Pearl Necklace: An Act of Love, new show by writer-actor Jeffrey Roberson's drag alter-ego Varla Jean Merman, Cleveland Public Theater, 6415 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, Oct, 28 through Nov. 6. (216)631-2727, www.cptonline.org.

Cabaret Ashtabula Arts Center, 2928 West 13th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio. October 29 - November 14. (440) 964-3396 www.ashartscenter.org

Paula Poundstone Appearing live at JR's Last Laugh, 1402 State Street, Erie. November 4, 5, and 6. (814) 461-0911.

Sophie Tucker: Last of the Red Hot Mamas at Musical Fare in Buffalo November 4 - December 5. A rollicking tale about the 1920s vaudevillian singer and comic (and major influence on Bette Midler's style) that is both warm and heartfelt and outrageously flirtatious and bawdy. A WNY premiere. (716) 839-8540 www.musicalfare.com

Southern Baptist Sissies Buffalo United Artists, 672 Main St, Buffalo NY November 12 – December 4. “Mark, Benny, T.J. and Andrew were raised in the Calvary Baptist Church where hate is preached in the name of the Lord. Mark wants to change the world, but does not know how. T.J. wants to let go of who he is and become the man his church wants him to be. Benny embraces himself with the same fervor the congregation reserves for God. Andrew lives a troubled existence, trying to rectify his identity with the church's teachings. Through sermons, hymns, childhood memories, and the experiences of two tragically funny alcoholics, the young men explore the challenges and questions that pervade their lives.” (716) 886-9239 www.buffalobua.org.

Websites and email lists for area performers:

Greg Ropp www.gregropp.com

Jocelyn Porter www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

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

Project

Erie Pride event photos are now posted on Erie Gay News website

Pride shots



Tim Dable speaks at Rally at The Village. Tim survived six years of antigay bullying in school, and his parents successfully sued the Titusville School District for failing to protect him.

Twenty Years of AIDS and Still Counting...

by Patty Puline, Health Educator

An interesting feature of the CDC website is their dot maps. If you go on their site, and look at the initial AIDS cases, (1981) there are about a handful on the west coast (San Francisco) and the east coast (New York City). What's interesting is watching this initial "outbreak", and we use that term very carefully at the health department. There are certain criteria that distinguish an "outbreak". AIDS cases met that criteria in 1981.

Watch the dot maps as they grow across the United States to an "epidemic" of one million cases. An "epidemic" has now reached the levels of a "pandemic", which means a worldwide epidemic. As the dots begin to fill in across the U.S., we see the true representation of AIDS cases.

You see, each dot represents a human case, a person, not just a disease. At first it was labeled a "gay" disease. Even the Centers for Disease Control created a misnomer when they named it GRID – Gay Related Immune Disorder. What a fiasco!

Soon they realized their mistake, and named it AIDS, but the stigma had already attached itself to an entire subset of our citizens. And that label would stick for years. We all know now that this is *not* a homosexual disease; it is *not* a heterosexual disease; it is equally infectious to everyone.

This year, the theme of World AIDS Day is on Women. "Women and Girls: HIV/AIDS"

Women are increasingly infected with HIV at an alarming rate. This focus may help us to promote awareness of this disease.

Wear a red ribbon on World AIDS Day, show your support and promote hope for a cure.

Twenty years and counting . . .

Patty Puline

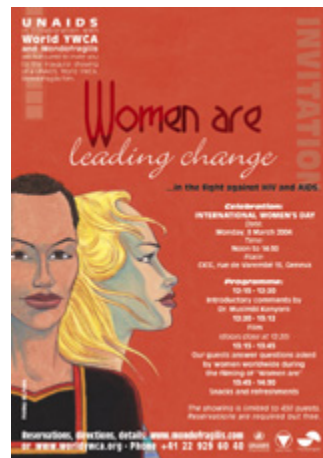
Patty Puline, Health Educator
Erie County Dept of Health
(814) 451-6543
ppuline@ecdh.org

World AIDS Day 2004

from UNAIDS.org

World AIDS Day is commemorated around the globe on 1 December. It celebrates progress made in the battle against the epidemic — and brings into focus remaining challenges. World AIDS Day 2004 focuses on women, girls, and HIV and AIDS — the theme for the World AIDS Campaign 2004. The campaign, with the strapline 'Have you heard me today?', explores how gender inequality fuels the AIDS epidemic. All over the world women do not enjoy the same rights and access to

employment, property and education as men. Women and girls are also more likely to face sexual violence. This makes them more vulnerable to HIV and, as the primary care givers, to the impact of AIDS. Read the Media advisory. More information and women and girls and HIV and AIDS can be found on the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS web site. "Women are... "This short film describes women's hardships in the face of HIV/AIDS. Produced by Mondofragilis on behalf of the World YWCA and with the support of UNAIDS.



Don't forget to Vote
on November 2!

World AIDS Day - Local Events

December 1, 2004

Observance Schedule

Hosted or cosponsored by:

Erie County Department of Health

Patty Puline, EGN Contributing Editor (814) 451-6543

2004 Theme: "Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS"

November 24- Dec. 2

AFSCME – Health Department Bulletin Board,
Tree of Hope

November 27

7:00 PM Gaudenzia Crossroads Shout Program,
Booker T. Washington Center 1720 Holland Street
**Annual World AIDS Day Talent Competition/
Dance "A Night out with SHOUT" AIDS Me-**
memorial Quilt Display *Open to public.*

November 28-29

12 – 9 PM Hispanic American Council, Millcreek
Mall AIDS Memorial Quilt Display *Open to public.*

December 1

Erie County Employees Reminder of World AIDS
Day - Red Ribbons

6 PM Identity – Edinboro University Candle-
light Ceremony World AIDS Day Contact: Michael
Lecker identityeup@hotmail.com

6:00 PM Ebenezer Church 1701 Chestnut Street Erie,
**PA World AIDS Day Observance Service/
Quilt Display** Contact: Sonny Concepcion – 455-
0212 *Open to Public*

6:00 PM Cathedral of St. Paul, Episcopal 134 West
7th Street Contact: Sue Kuebler **World AIDS Day**
Healing Service, Kelvin's Dinner, Quilt Display
Open to Public

Erie's Promise Red Flag Project 24 High Schools
– World AIDS Day Projects Contact: Patty Puline
451-6543

9 – 11 AM Hispanic American Council 554 East
10th Street AIDS Memorial Quilt Display *Open to*
Public

December 1-2

4:00 PM Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medi-
cine World AIDS Day Service Khaz Ghadiri –
School of Pharmacy AIDS Memorial Quilt Dis-
play – Dr. Oruski

December 1 – 5

Daily (9) Barbershops / Salons Tree of Hope
/ Red Ribbons

December 3

1:30 PM Mental Health Association 1101 Peach
Street Ecumenical Service for World AIDS Day
Open to public

December 4

2:00 PM Marsha Hall Learning Center 1841 East
18th Street Contact: Steve Simmelkjaer – 451-7875
"Remembering the Spirit of Julia, Emory and Don
Paul" And other Recovering Addicts "Spiritual
Healing" Quilt Display, Tree of Hope

Private observances

Private Observances will be held at:

Florence Crittenton; Gannondale; SCI Albion
Prison; Great Lakes School (Staff & Students); Esper
Center; Cathedral Prep

*These programs are brought to you on behalf of the Erie County
Department of Health and County Executive Rick Schenker*

Pride shots



Marching down State Street during October 3 March and Rally.

**Oral HIV
testing now
available**

HIV Clinic

STD Clinic

451-6700

HIV COUNSELING & TESTING

WALK-IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

Erie County Health Department

606 West Second Street
(Corner of West 2nd & Cherry Streets)

Monday 12 noon - 3:30 pm

Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

STD TESTING

WALK IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

Erie County Health Department

Monday 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department
Erie Office, Outreach Services
(814) 451-6732

Erie County Health Department
Corry Office - (814) 663-3891

Hispanic American Council
(814) 455-0212

Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation
Delivery System (MHEDS)
(814) 453-6229 or (814) 453-4728

All services are free and confidential.
Specially trained outreach workers are available
for in home appointments (HIV testing only).

Election 2004

Please vote

Regardless of what the polls say, every vote counts. This is particularly true in this year's presidential race, in which a few votes really can make a difference.

When you vote

Bring your ID with you to the polling place.

If you need a ride.

Campaigns often try to provide rides for voters. In Erie County, you may call the PA Victory 04 headquarters (that's the headquarters of the Kerry-Edwards campaign) at 454-1600. It is best to call before election day.

Voters' Guides

PlanetOut.com has a lot of coverage of the elections specifically of interest to GLBT voters. Click on their "Election 2004" feature. www.planetout.com/index.html

We will have links to several voters guides on the Erie Gay News website at www.eriegaynews.com. Some of these will deal with other issues, link the environment and women's rights.

Volunteers still needed

The big needs are phone banking and door-to-door canvassing, but you can also do data entry, answer phones, stuff envelopes, or bring in a covered dish or refreshments for volunteers. Workers are needed on the day of the election to drive voters to the polls, answer phones, be poll watchers and other tasks.

Pride shots



Members of Identity, Edinboro University's GLBT organization, relaxing at The Village during the October 3 Pride event.

National News Briefs

by Bob

Republicans Kill Hate Crimes Bill

A proposal to include crimes targeting gay men and lesbians in the nation's federal hate-crimes law has been rejected by Republican negotiators from the House of Representatives.

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA) as approved by the Senate, would have added real or perceived sexual orientation, gender and disability to federal hate crime laws. This would have allowed the federal government to provide assistance in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes based on sexual orientation. Current hate crime laws only cover offenses based on race, color, religion or national origin.

The proposal to include sexual orientation was apparently scuttled during a conference of House and Senate members while they worked on the 2005 defense authorization bill.

The Senate bill was introduced by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Gordon Smith, R-Ore. They argued federal hate crime laws needed to cover gays and lesbians in order to protect all hate-crimes victims.

Kennedy blamed the White House and House GOP leadership for the bill's failure. "We will be back again and again, and we will continue to bring this legislation up every opportunity we can until it is signed into law," the Senator said.

"Broad bipartisan support for this bill didn't stop the House GOP leadership from ensuring its demise," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Cheryl Jacques in a prepared statement.

Etheridge Undergoes Breast Cancer Treatment

Lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge has cancelled the rest of her U.S. tour to undergo treatment for breast cancer.

According to her publicist, Etheridge, 43, will undergo surgery, and her doctor predicts a "speedy and complete recovery." According to published reports, the cancer was detected early, and the singer has reportedly been receiving treatment.

"I am fortunate to be under a wonderful doctor's care and thankful that this was caught early," Etheridge said in a quote published on her Web site. "I am looking forward to a quick and full recovery."

Etheridge plans to recover at her Los Angeles home with her partner, actress Tammy Lynn Michaels, and two children.

Gay Republicans Sue Pentagon

The Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest gay GOP group, has filed suit against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the U.S. government over the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The suit was filed in the U.S. Federal District Court for the Central District of California on behalf of the organization's members currently serving in the military.

"A lawsuit should not be necessary when the experience of our allies in the war on terror, including Great Britain, Israel and Australia, all allow gays and lesbians to serve openly and honestly," said Log Cabin Executive Director Patrick Guerriero.

"Under these circumstances, where we are a nation at war fighting a global war against terrorism, we can no longer sit by and wait for our elected officials to find the political courage to do the right thing," Guerriero added.

According to Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), nearly 10,000 people have been discharged for violating "don't ask, don't tell" since the rule went into effect. In 2003, 787 people were dismissed, despite the military's need for soldiers with operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(continued next page)

Bethany J. Robson, CSW-R

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National News Briefs

(continued from previous page)

Court Tosses Louisiana Amendment

Louisiana's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage has been tossed out by a state judge just weeks after voters overwhelmingly approved the measure.

Since Louisiana law requires state constitutional amendments to focus on a single issue, District Judge William Morvant ruled the amendment was flawed because of the way it was written. Besides banning same-sex marriage, this amendment also prohibits the state from recognizing civil unions for gay couples and same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Evan Wolfson, the executive director of Freedom to Marry, an organization working to win marriage equality nationwide, said the ruling sends a message that "even minorities have basic rights." Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, called it "an important ruling for fairness."

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, one of the groups that supported the amendment, vowed to appeal the judge's ruling.

Gay Marriage Ban to Appear on Ohio Ballot

Add Ohio to the list of states where a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage will appear on the ballot on Nov. 2.

Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell confirmed that amendment backers had more than enough signatures to qualify the initiative.

In addition to banning same-sex marriage, the proposed amendment seeks to ban any type of civil unions or legal privileges of marriage to unmarried couples.

Kate Anderson, the executive director of Stonewall Columbus, an organization serving central Ohio's LGBT community, said "If this amendment passes in Ohio, it will take years to reverse. "This means years of no legal protections for our families."

Several state politicians oppose the measure, including Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro. Petro criticized the initiative because it would prevent cities and public colleges from continuing to offer domestic

partner benefits, ultimately threatening Ohio's already struggling economy.

"We're trying to make sure our businesses have all the recruiting tools necessary," Petro said, adding that the issue is "broad, intolerant and unnecessary."

Petro, who plans to run for the GOP nomination for governor in 2006, differs from his two Republican rival candidates, Auditor Betty Montgomery and Secretary of State Blackwell, both of whom support the measure.

Spain Moves to Permit Same-Sex Marriage

Government leaders in Spain have introduced legislation that would give same-sex couples the same rights to marry and adopt children as heterosexual couples. The effort comes despite fierce opposition from the Catholic Church.

The draft legislation, endorsed by Spain's ruling Socialist party, goes before Parliament next, where many expect it to be approved. If approved, Spain would become the third nation to legalize same-sex marriage, after the Netherlands and Belgium.

"We are putting an end to centuries of discrimination," Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said during a news conference. "Spain is now in the vanguard of Europe and the world in fighting this discrimination."

Although the Spanish government and the general population have become more liberal in recent years, the Catholic Church continues to play an influential and historic role in the country. Church leaders have repeatedly criticized Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who has promised to introduce this legislation ever since taking office in March.

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PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

PFLAG Activities

PFLAG was happy to take part in the Gay Pride March and Rally on October 3rd. We hope the recipients of our gift baskets enjoyed them. We send a hearty THANK-YOU to Mike Mahler and all those who helped him make this event happen. It is important for GLBT visibility in the community and for the bonding that occurs. Thank you so much, Mike.

PFLAG was fortunate to have Jen, from the Crime Victim Center speak at our October 11th meeting. Her presentation helped us to understand sexual assault and how to help people who are victims of it. One statistic that was presented is true, and startling: 1 out of 3 women are sexually assaulted during their lifetime, and 1 out of 6 men are sexually assaulted by the age of 18!!! Moreover, only 20% to 30% of sexual assaults are reported to authorities. The presentation helped us realize that we must not fall into the trap of stereotyping. Anyone can be the perpetrator of sexual assault, even the "nice" person or family member that we know. One thing for all to remember: Believe those friends who tell you they were sexually assaulted, and help them deal with it, without judging them or commenting about the perpetrator. (Commenting about the perpetrator can add to their feelings of guilt.) Encourage them to report it to authorities. The main thing is to be a good listener.

Our next PFLAG meeting, (Nov. 8), is our "Annual" meeting, where current members are expected to renew memberships. We hope all members will try to attend. Memberships are \$25. PFLAG National changed their procedures. Now there is only one kind of membership: household. A household can contain only one single person, or two or more people. Each household membership is \$25. We hate to raise the cost of membership for singles, who used to pay

only \$20, but since we have to give \$15 to PFLAG National, our chapter still gets only \$10 from each membership for our local use. (The same that we got in previous years, by charging \$20 per single and \$25 per household.) We DO need your membership dues, little as it may seem, so please renew! Our PFLAG chapter has reached many new people this year, educated many people who are in the fields of education or public service about GLBT issues, and influenced many legislative efforts, for the benefit of the gay community.

PFLAG is setting up a special meeting for parents whose children have recently "come out". The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Nov 5th. Call Maureen (898-8341) for details.

Activities with Schools

PFLAG met with McDowell Principal, Tim Rankin, and with the sponsor of McDowell's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). The GSA seems to be in great shape, with a talented leader and a supportive sponsor. We are now working to set up ways to sensitize other teachers and staff about GLBT issues, perhaps through an in-service training session.

PFLAG also made a guest speaker presentation to a class studying sexuality at Penn State University, Behrend Campus. The students were grateful for the exposure to information about GLBT issues.

Meeting Notes

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: November 8th. The meeting will be at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte. 97), Erie, from 7 to 9 PM. (Take exit 27 off of Rte. 90, and go North about a half mile.)

In addition to this regularly-scheduled meeting, PFLAG will hold ad hoc meetings, as needed. (For example, for parents who have just recently been informed that their child is gay, or for spouses of GLBT people.) We are holding one of these "ad hoc" meetings this month, tentatively set for Fri., Nov. 5th, for parents whose children have just recently "come out". For details, please call Maureen (898-8341) or email me at pflagerie@adelphia.net.

EGN DEADLINE

is the

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PA-GALA registers new voters

The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance announced recently that its volunteers have registered 571 new lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & allied Voters in 33 Pennsylvania Counties.

The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance is the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political organization in the Commonwealth.

"Our voter registration efforts this year have gone above and beyond any drives we have sponsored in the past," stated PA-GALA Political Director Steve Black.

PA-GALA sponsored voter registration tables at LGBT community meetings, events and business in 13 communities across Pennsylvania, including: Allentown, Bethlehem, Bridgeport, Erie, Harrisburg, Lancaster, New Hope, Philadelphia, the Poconos, Reading, Scranton, State College and Wilkes-Barre. "Our voter registration efforts involved nearly 100 volunteers from every corner of the state," remarked Black.

"This year is unique. I have been registering voters for years, and I have never seen this level of

enthusiasm for an election before. It's great to see so many people becoming interested in our government and the issues," said Allyson Diane Hamm, Voter Registration Coordinator for PA-GALA.

Ms. Hamm sees LGBT Youth increasing their participation. "I registered many people this year who never registered before. I've been especially impressed by the young people. I've had people as young as 9 years old helping register voters this year. They only wish they were old enough to vote." Ms. Hamm registered nearly 100 LGBT 18-22 year-olds in the Lehigh Valley alone.

The Republicans' antigay attacks continue to be a major motivating factor in getting LGBT people to register and vote this year. "President Bush has presided over the most anti-LGBT administration in history," stated Liz Bradbury, PA-GALA's Lehigh Valley Coordinator. President Bush and the Congressional Republicans have actively pushed for passage of a constitutional amendment that would forever prohibit same-sex marriages and several Republican Pennsylvania State Representatives have been trying to pass as many as 51 anti-LGBT amendments.

"The Republican's legislative attacks on LGBT people is reflected in the party breakdown of our newly registered voters," asserted Black. "450 registered as Democrats; 37 registered as Republicans; 75 registered with No Affiliation; 6 registered as Greens; and 3 as Libertarians."

Liz Bradbury also noted "PA-GALA has registered more in new voters in Pennsylvania this year - than decided the 2000 Presidential Election in Florida - 538 votes." She added, "After the last year's statewide election for Superior Court was decided by just 24 votes, LGBT people and voters in general have realized how important their votes are."

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for our list of locations

Tret Fure returns to Erie

Playing at the Unitarian Universalist on November 19

by Kate Hentz

Singer-songwriter Tret Fure returns to Erie Friday night, November 19th, bringing her rockin' aggressive folk and signature ballads into the UU Church of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, an 8 o'clock show. Fans attending this year's concert will hear a slew of new songs salted in among a slate of old and current favorites.



Tret Fure

It's been a year since Fure first performed in Erie, and in a year's time she's been a busy girl. In January, Tret performed at the South Florida Folk Festival, a prestigious juried competition for folk performers, where she took first place in two of the three musical categories of the competition: best overall song and best up-tempo song.

In April, Tret and partner Jane Weldon were in Portland, Oregon, where they were wed, joining the ranks of thousands of gay couples afforded the legal right marry in Multnomah County last Spring. Tret speaks firsthand of the individual and political import of the experience from a profoundly personal as well as political perspective in her monthly letter to fans on her website at www.tretfure.com. Photos of Tret and Jane's wedding are posted in the website Photo Gallery.

In June, Tret and Jane produced the second annual Tomboygirl Festival in their hometown of Madison, Wisconsin. The festival is a day-long event of music and comedy that has already morphed into an entire weekend of activities starting the night before with a mini-performance by the next day's artists and

ending with a traditional golf scramble and picnic at Monona Golf Course on Sunday.

And in July in Columbus, Ohio at the National Women's Music Festival, Tret was honored with the Phyllis Schliessman Award for Outstanding Contribution to Women's Music in recognition of her three-decade career in women's and independent music.

An untiring artist who tours year 'round, Tret will be playing in Erie for just the second time in as many years. She was so warmly welcomed a year ago that returning this Fall was high on her list of commitments. Says Tret:

"I totally enjoyed coming to Erie for the first time last year and playing to such an appreciative audience. Great audiences are the deciding factor in whether I return to a city and Erie is one to which I'm excited about returning. I hope that people will come out again for this as it will be a brand new show. I have tons of new songs to play as well as a few older ones I haven't played for a while.

"I am starting the new project at the end of November and will have a new CD out in March 2005 called 'Anytime, Anywhere.' I'm really looking forward to my return to Erie and hope you are too."

Will Tret and Jane be selling their exclusive line of Tomboy girl clothing again this trip? You bet. They have some great new Tomboy girl wear to showcase as well as some signature Tret Fure shirts bearing lyrics from several of her songs. And just in time for the holidays!

Aromas Coffeehouse will be on hand again to sell coffee and other hot beverages for what promises to be another heartwarming evening of Tret Fure's musical artistry at the UU Church.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the UU Church, at Aromas Coffeehouse at 2174 West 8th Street in Erie, from Chiropractic Works, 413 High Street in Waterford, from this writer at 716-326-7480, and on the web at www.tomboygirl.com.

Calendar Listings are FREE!

please submit information by the 15th of the month

In the Front Row

Gay movie reviews

by Tim and Doug

24th Day

"You could be killed by the person you loved most." Such is the reality of living in a world with AIDS. This reality is part of what makes the movie *24th Day* such an intense, riveting film. It stars two, well known Hollywood actors, James Marsden (*X-men* and *Disturbing Behavior*) and Scott Speedman (*Underworld* and the TV series *Felicity*). It is a psychological thriller that makes it difficult to remain firmly planted in your seat. Tom (Speedman) feels his life is in ruins and holds Dan (Marsden) responsible. He sets out to make Dan pay. The way Tom manipulates and exposes Dan for what he is and what he has done in his life will make you think twice about whom you go home with next time!

Although the lead characters are exceedingly attractive, that's not what makes *24th Day* such a great movie. The characters are real. Tom attended community college. He works as a chef's assistant in a fancy restaurant. He dreamed of being an archeologist when he was younger, but that was not what boys from his neighborhood were expected to do with their lives so he settled for working in his uncle's restaurant and married his high school sweetheart.

Dan is the consummate party boy. He graduated from a huge university, admittedly taking much longer than four years. He is into one night stands and the bars scene. He lives for today without concern for others or even his own personal well being. When he

hooks up with Tom for a one-night fling, the consequences prove disastrous for Tom and eventually for Dan.

Doug: This is not your typical gay-themed movie. I had a hard time sitting still for this one. The characters were so real. I found that *24th Day* was an exceedingly sexy movie despite that fact there wasn't a shred of nudity. I also found the character Tom played by Scott Speedman to be so full of emotion. This movie had about every emotion imaginable attached to it.

Tim: Once in awhile a movie comes along to make you think and this one has done it for me. Definitely proof that not all gay themed movies are all about fluff. Who would have thought that a movie built almost entirely on just two characters, dealing with a very real and distressing issue and completely lacking the clutter that sells movies today could be so good! A must see in my opinion.



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★ **Sugar**

Titles not available
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This & That

by Deb Spilko

Minneapolis-based lesbian musician **Ellis** will headline in Edinboro on November 8, along with Wisconsin folk duo **Patchouli** and Erie musician **Matt Texter**. The event is at The Hangout (in its East Theater). The concert is sponsored by the Edinboro Women Studies Committee and WFSE, the campus radio station, and organizers hope to use the event to benefit the Women's Studies scholarship. Tickets are \$5 per person and \$8 for couples; they will be available at B-Sides record store in Edinboro and Eclectic Etceteras coffee shop. For further details, contact Nikki Hassinger of the *Local Music Scene*, thelocalmusicscene@yahoo.com (814)853-9106. Hassinger produces *Local Music Scene*—a program on the Edinboro television station—and says she expects that Ellis will appear on that program, as well as on WFSE. Web addresses for the performers at this event: *ellis* <http://ellis-music.com> *Patchouli* www.patchouli.net *Matt Texter* www.fadegently.com

"3 shops on Main" in nearby Findley Lake, New York wants everyone to feel welcome when they venture out to the resort town. Morgen & Company, Blue Heron Inn and Wonderments, the three shops located on Main Street, just want to "bring the fun back to Findley Lake." So they are holding **Girls' Nights Out** on Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20 from 5 PM until closing. Joanna Bonalewicz, owner of Morgen & Company, told me, "This is an opportunity to spend an evening out with friends to discover new products, enjoy a casual fun fashion show, treat yourself to a mini-seated massage & sample refreshments. Make the evening a real event by scheduling a dinner reservation at the Blue Heron Inn. A Grand Prize drawing will include a night's stay and breakfast the Blue Heron Inn, two luxurious Barefoot Dreams bathrobes donated by Morgen & Company along with a Kama Sutra gift package from Wonderments. There will also be an art show at the Water Wheel Outlook." Those who register in advance will receive a free gift; call (716)769-7700 or email Joanna @jbonale@yahoo.com. Since the businesses have advertised Girls' Nights Out in our publication, I was naturally a bit curious about which girls they meant. Actually, Joanna said, it's just meant to welcome everyone. "Did you know that the Blue Heron Inn is gay-friendly," she points out, "and is listed in several GLBT online guides? We want your readers to discover that Findley Lake is an terrific destination close to Erie, with shops famous for fun, unique gifts & personal service and that the GLBT community will be very welcome." *Blue Heron Inn: (716)769-7852; Wonderments: (716)769-7190. Findley Lake is located around the corner from Peek 'n Peak Resort. Take I-90 to I-86; Exit #4; 1-1/2 miles to the resort town.*

Photos from the Pride March and Rally should be posted now. A reminder that, in the future when I or someone else is taking photos for EGN, don't be shy about coming up and asking to have your picture taken. Sometimes it is hard for a photographer at an event like that to know who's up for having their pictures taken, so just let us know.

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PA House (5th District)

John Evans - R

The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) is the largest LGBT political organization in the state. To join send \$25 for individual membership or \$35 for a family membership to PA-GALA - PO Box 10834 - Erie, Pennsylvania 16514.