

People Show their Pride at Picnic

By Bob

Under bright blue skies with a cool breeze blowing off Lake Erie, some 270 people attended this year's Gay Pride Community Picnic at Presque Isle State Park on June 10. The festive environment help foster friendships as people of all ages enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers and a host of excellently prepared side dishes.



Would-be hitchhiker approaches Jayk, Meranda and Candia as they take a surrey ride around the Pride Picnic at Presque Isle. More picnic photos inside.

The picnic also benefited the Second Harvest Food Bank. A total of 91 pounds of food was collected.

Several organizations and businesses were represented at the picnic, including PFLAG of Erie/Crawford County, Liberty PA, Green Party, Erie County Department of Health, SHOUT Outreach/Gaudenzia, Matt's Mobile Massage/Arbonne Skin Care and Community Health Net. WICU TV 12 covered the event as well.

Special thanks go to the local businesses that made donations to the picnic: Trance Dance Club, Zone Dance Club, Coca Cola/Erie, Wegmans (Asbury Road), Wegmans (Peach Street), Erie County Department of Health, Movie Exchange, Gary's Flower Shoppe, Pie in the Sky, Blue Heron Inn, Two Friends Italian Market and Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe.

Thanks also go out to the many volunteers who helped make the picnic possible: John, Gregg, Heather, Tara, Roni Tyson, Kim, Andrea, Cory, AJ, Michael Amory, Jo Hyatt, Paul, Raven Stephen McClain, Dok, Jamie and Rachel Hibbs, Mark H, Karl S, Season, Joseph, Al and Maureen Koseff, Dale, Nicholas Keech, T Evans, Shakira, Kate and Beth, Pat, Cedric and Brian Rowley. Thanks also to James von Loewe and Deb Spilko for taking photos, and Jeff Hill for lending roasters and the coffee urn. Big thanks to Brian and Larry for cooking and for shopping, and to Gary Snyder for managing the kitchen.

Although no elected officials attended this year's event, Erie County Councilwoman Joy Greco, who frequently attends, sent her greetings after a bad back forced her to stay home. In addition, Jason White, the Democratic candidate for the PA State Legislature, 5th District, called to express his strong opposition to the proposed antigay marriage amendment to the Pennsylvania constitution. White is challenging incumbent Rep. John Evans who voted for the amendment.

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EGN Rates & Data

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

Photos and illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

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



Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502-1105
 Phone: (814) 456-9833
 Fax: (270)423-6217
 info@eriegaynews.com
 www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline: 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 James von Loewe, Jack Walburn, Lynne Rhodes and Deb Spilko for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, John & Paula King, Jack Walburn, Brian How, & Dave S for distribution. Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. Bob for proof-reading. Thanks! If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

SATURDAY JULY 1ST

**STARZ AND BARZ
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SATURDAY

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WEAR BOXERS,
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WILD THINGS HAPPEN
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PARTY!**

TUESDAY

JULY 18TH

**A NIGHT OF
COMEDY**

SATURDAY

JULY 22ND

**GIRLZ GONE WILD
WET T-SHIRT
CONTEST**

SATURDAY

AUGUST 12TH

**JAIL HOUSE
PARTY**

SATURDAY JULY 29TH

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Community News

Amendment Protest

by Greg Valiga

A contingent of local activists twice picketed the Erie office of US Senator Rick Santorum on June 5 to protest the federal Marriage Protection Amendment.

Organized by Doris Cipolla and supported by individuals from a handful of local organizations including Pax Christi, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, and the Green Party, the event was scheduled to coincide with debate and a vote on the resolution by the US Senate. The Senate later failed to shut off debate on the amendment by a 49-48 vote; 60 votes were needed for an actual vote on the amendment. PA Senator Arlen Specter voted against limiting debate, a change from his last vote on the amendment and a victory for state LGBT activists.

Longtime peace and rights enthusiast Cipolla stated that she was motivated by the national publicity surrounding the Marriage Protection Amendment which intensified in the days preceding the protests. Hearing negative comments by Senator Santorum re-

garding same-sex relationships sparked her action. "We had to offer a presence, especially with Santorum and his comments," Cipolla stated. "This amendment would ban our access to gain rights."

The protests appeared to successfully gain the attention of local media and passing motorists. The afternoon protest—drawing about 25 individuals and double that of the morning event—was described as uplifting and empowering. Activists held signs and inked their names to a list stating their opposition to the amendment which was presented to aides in the Senator's office.

Cipolla said the event "went quite well" and was particularly impressed with the response considering her decision to organize occurred less than a week prior to the protests. Her objectives of signing up allies and supporters to demonstrate and recruiting leaders from supportive organizations for media interviews were successfully met.

Womynspace

by Tara Ramsey

The weather is FINALLY getting warmer and now is the time to shake those winter blues! Womynspace is getting together to discuss some up and coming events to be sure to put smiles on your faces. Please join us at Panera Bread, 1935 Keystone Dr., Erie, PA (behind WalMart on Peach St.) on July 15 at 4 PM.

We will be talking about what kind of adventures we want to take like: Kennywood Trip, Cedar Point Trip, Cooks Forest, PA Grand Canyon, just to name a few.

The thing is, we want you to be a part of it because everyone knows, the more the merrier! It will be a time to get to meet new people and see those you already know and just have a good time.

Please join us July 15 as we make Womynspace more interactive and a part of our community. See you there!!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Tara Ramsey
email: tr Ramsey135@yahoo.com
Phone: 814-431-9001



Demonstrators at Sen. Rick Santorum's Erie office. They were protesting Santorum's support of the antigay Federal Marriage Amendment. The group consisted of GLBT people and allies. Link to more photos of demonstration at www.eriegaynews.com

photo: Deb Spilko

Community News

Lambda Car Club is off and Running

The Lambda Car Club International is up and running with a new region serving western Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1981, the Lambda Car Club is an organization for gay people who have a love of and appreciation for antique automobiles and trucks. The club currently has nearly 2,000 members in 27 regions throughout the United States and Canada.

The club's new Allegheny Region, formed last fall, currently has 24 members living in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Two of the region's officers live in Erie.

Earlier this month, several Allegheny Region members represented the club by driving their cars in the Pittsburgh Gay Pride Parade. The club will also be participating in the Rochester, NY, Gay Pride Parade on July 8, and will sponsor a car show the next day at the Rochester Gay Pride Picnic.

On Sunday, July 30, the Allegheny Region members will be enjoying an excursion to the Canton Classic Car Museum in Canton, OH. This museum houses a collection of some 45 interesting and rare antique automobiles.

Anyone interested on more information about the Lambda Car Club may visit its website: www.lambdacarclub.com, or email the Allegheny Region at LCCIAAllegheny@yahoo.com. If you have an interested in old vehicles, consider belonging to the Lambda Car Club and "join us OUT on the road." You do not have to own an antique vehicle to be a member.



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Letters

A Note of Thanks

This is a thank you to Lee at Trance for everything he does for the gay community and our friends.

On Sunday, May 29, Trance hosted one of the most inspiring live music events that I have ever been privileged to perform at and attend. Entertainment was provided by myself (Bob Bearfield), Trevor Huster (TrevSonic), Super No. 7, and Mas Nova (fronted by Joe Newcomer, our favorite Trance Martini Bar Server). The crowd was an enthusiastic mix of people from many backgrounds and affiliations, and the vibe was welcoming and festive throughout the evening.

It was a well-attended event that Lee had the foresight to organize in appreciation of there being many kinds of entertainment – all of which he is eagerly willing to showcase for those who have talent and those who like to support it. Lee is exceedingly happy to share his space with anyone who is willing to follow through on the proposal of a vision.

Thank you to Lee for his generosity and encouragement of local talent – of any kind!

Many music fans, myself included, can't wait for the next event like this one, but don't forget to support as many events at Trance as you can – it's a great establishment with a truly active and conscientious owner – Thank you again, Lee!!!

Bob Bearfield

2 Great DVD Contests!

Win a copy of the *Rosie O'Donnell's Family Cruise DVD*! Erie Gay News has 10 copies to give away! To be in the contest, you must enter by July 10 at www.eriegaynews.com.

This feature-length documentary takes viewers on a wonderful voyage in which celebrity superstar Rosie O'Donnell and her family join hundreds of other gay, lesbian, bisexual and straight families on a weeklong trip from New York City to the Bahamas and back. This makes a statement about what "family" means today.

Also starting June 26, we will be giving away 10 copies of Tracey Ullman's new DVD.

For details, go to www.eriegaynews.com

The Day I Married My Best Friend

by Carl Tripp and Richard Hayford

Ever since I was a little boy I've dreamed of standing in front of my family and friends committing myself to the one person I would spend the rest of my life with. But as for many of us, those plans took a detour when I discovered I was gay in high school.

I was not sure I would ever meet someone, let alone marry them. First of all because I grew up in a little town and the concept of homosexuality was not something people talked about, let alone accepted. So even if by some miracle I did meet someone, any kind of commitment ceremony or wedding would not have been possible.

Well, I moved to Edinboro to attend college and so the first obstacle in my way was removed. Second was, as we all know, the fact that gay marriage is not accepted by our country. For some reason its seen as the downfall of heterosexual family values, but don't get me started on that. Well, I finally met someone and we fell in love.

A little over a year ago I asked him to marry me, not really sure how anyone would feel about the idea, but not caring. It had taken me a long time to come to terms with who I was as a person and to finally meet someone I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. I wasn't about to let anything stop me from finally being happy.

We told our families that we were engaged and they have been nothing but supportive of that decision. Both our parents and family members have given us money to help pay for things and all planned on attending our ceremony. On June 10, 2006 my dream finally came true when Rich and I stood in front of family and friends at the Zone Dance Club and committed our lives to each other. There was no thought of whether or not the government agreed with what we were doing. It did not matter. What mattered was



Richard Hayford (R) and Carl Tripp (L).
Wedding photo by Nathan Maynard

that we were in love. That's not to say that we do not want same-sex marriage legalized by our government, that is something we will fight for until the day it happens. But in the end, a piece of paper is not what said we were married, its what we felt in our hearts.

I just want to take a moment to thank the Zone Dance Club for everything it did to make our ceremony what it was. I can not even begin to describe everything they did to make sure that day was something we would always remember. So to Bob and Lou, Ernie, Jared, Scott, Michael, Joe and everyone else at the Zone, Rich and I say thank you. You made it a day we will cherish forever.

Erie Gay News welcomes news about celebrations in our lives and community. Please contact publication for guidelines on submitting.


Calendar

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

Jun 19-25 Pride Toronto www.pridetoronto.com/
IMPORTANT: You now *must* have appropriate border-crossing ID when traveling into Canada.

Jun 24 - Womynspace Canoe Trip Allegheny Outfitters, 2101 PA Ave East, Warren, PA. 10 AM. Social group for lesbian/bi women. We will be leaving from Allegheny outfitters in Warren at 10 AM. It will be about a 5-6 hour trip since the water level is down. We will be going to the Buckaloons and then be transported back to our vehicles. If you need directions there let me know. Canoes are \$40 per canoe. that includes life jackets, paddles and transport back to our cars. Canoes are usually big enough for two adults..so each adult would pay \$20. Children are alright, not sure if Allegheny outfitters has an age limit or not. They can be contacted at Allegheny Outfitters Inc, (814)723-1203 or alleghenyoutfitters.com. If we rent 10 or more canoes we will get a 10% discount. Also let me know if you would like to car pool. I can drive and I have a volunteer that offered to drive people who live in Erie area. Womynspace will supply sandwich fixings and chips for lunch along the way. Please bring your own drinks. Contact: Darla. Phone: (814) 587-6448. Email: fluffybear@velocity.net. Browse to <http://womynspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jun 24 - "Beach Blanket Bingo" night at Two Friends Italian Market 10th & French Streets, Erie. Music by 2 Girls Alone. 8-10 PM. Join the band and Friends in this kickoff of a great summer. BYOB (beachwear as well as legal beverages.) Prize for best bikini, pizza special for swimsuit wearers. For a pizza



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coupon and/or more info, email twogirlsalone@att.net.

Jun 24 - Hawaiian Luau at Youngstown Pride Center First Unitarian Church 1105 Elm St. Youngstown OH 6-10 PM. Chicken and side dishes will be provided. DJ. Donations gladly accepted. Ticket-bar. (330) 747-7433 www.angelfire.com/oh5/youngstownpride youngstownpride@hotmail.com

Jun 25 - Film: 'Tying the Knot: The Union That's Dividing America' Admiral Room, Blasco Public Library, 160 E Front St, Erie, PA. 2 - 4 PM. Presented by Northwestern PA. National Organization for Women. Admission is free. Info: Judy Dauson. : dausonjls@yahoo.com. www.edinboro.com/nwpanow.

Jun 26 - Summer Splash at Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Summer is here and it's time to show off that tan and tan line. Surfer boys, Surfer Girls, hunks in trunks and babes in bikinis. Wear your sexiest beach gear and work up a little summer sweat. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027.

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**PARTY TIL 9 PM
TICKETS \$20 IN ADVANCE**

**AVAILABLE AT THE ZONE
133 WEST 18th ST, ERIE
and all Pittsburgh local bars)
\$25 (if available!) at the boat.**

Calendar

Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 28 - Employment Seminar Erie County HRC, OSHA and EEOC will be hosting an employment seminar on June 28 at the Bel-Aire Hotel from 9 AM to 4 PM. For employers and employees. Continental breakfast will be served. Info: Erie County Human Relations Commission, 1001 State Street, Room 322, Erie PA. Phone: 451-7065, 451-7064, or 451-7021.

Jul 1 - Indepen-Dance Daze! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Celebrate the good ole' USA at the Zone's 8th annual Independence Day Party! Wear Red, White or Blue! Dress as Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty or wear fun patriotic boxers! Parade on in and Dance under the fireworks on the dance floor as we light up the night! American Pride! - Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jul 1 - Starz & Barz Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Show off your patriotic pride and wear old school red, white and blue. Come as Uncle Sam, Miss Liberty or Betsy Ross if you have the stripes for it. Whether you're a rear admiral or just a grunt, dust off and show up in your uniform! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jul 2 - Pittsburgh Boat Cruise Station Square, 1 Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA. 4:30 PM - 9 PM. Boarding time is 4:30 PM til 5 PM. Leaves at 5 PM, docks at 8:30. Party til 9 PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance. Available at the Zone, 133 W 18th St, and all Pittsburgh area bars. Tickets (if available!) are \$25 at the boat. Phone: (412) 355-7980. Browse to www.stationsquare.com.

July 7 to 9 - Miss Gay Ohio Pageant (Warren OH) Show 10 PM, Club Queen, 1877 Ridge Ave SE, Warren Ohio; (330)453-1055.

July 15 - Womynspace Get Together Panera's on Upper Peach St, 1935 Keystone Dr, Erie PA. 4 PM. Social group for lesbian/bi women. Planning meeting. See Community news on page 5. Contact: Tara Ramsey. Phone: (814) 431-9001. Email: tramsey135@yahoo.com. Browse to <http://womynspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 15 - Menspace meets (Jim and Greg's) 20996 Kightlinger Rd, Venango, PA. 7:30 PM. Contact:

Calendar

Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 15 - Full Moon Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Unleash the wild child inside. Come howl at the moon with your fellow children of the night. Drop 'em & Drink Special. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jul 15 - Island Heat! Tropical Beach Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Aloha! Calling all island boys and native girls... Come join us for some hot steamy fun and cool island drinks! Try one of our new frozen daiquiris and margaritas! Show off your summer tan! Wear your tight board shorts, grab your tiny bikini and show off your sexy beach bod! Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt, slip into your grass skirt, and come get lei'd! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jul 22 - UU Meadville Yard & Rummage Sale Details (814) 724-4023 church@uumeadville.org www.uumeadville.org The Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania is a "Welcoming Congregation" (welcoming GLBT people).

Jul 22 - Girlz Gone Wild at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Whether you're a naughty nurse, sultry schoolgirl, hard bodied athlete or any other wild woman, this night is for you. Wet t-shirt contest! Boys are naturally welcome! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com.

Jul 27-30 Pittsburgh Gay Black Pride www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com

Jul 31-Aug 6 - Cleveland Black Gay and Proud www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com

Aug 4-6 - Toronto Black Gay Pride www.torontoblackpride.com IMPORTANT: You now *must* have appropriate border-crossing ID when traveling into Canada.

Aug 5 - Greek Gods TOGA Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us for a night of mystical fun as we summon the gods of Mt. Olympus to the Zone! Go Greek—wear a Toga. Come dressed as your favorite mythological character! - sexy Olympian - drag goddess - leather gladiator! Don't forget

the Midas Touch with a bit of gold. ...or come as a Greek statue, with body paints and a well placed fig leaf. Sorry- No Nudity! Get into your Golden Chariot...and be treated like a God! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Aug 12 - Menspace meets Brian and Larry's, 1242 W 10th St, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Aug 27 - Dancin' in the Streets, outdoor dance party benefits AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, 1-8 PM, Clifton Blvd. between West 116th & West 117th Sts., Cleveland; (216)221-2333.



All listing entries must be received by the 15th of the month.

Pride Picnic Pics



Troy (left) and Tay (right) with friends.

Photo: James von Loewe

COFFEE & TALK

No Big Whoop!

Every third Wednesday at
Aroma's Coffee House
across from the
West Erie Plaza
on West 8th Street.

Join The Guys!
Check Calender Listing
in Erie Gay News for
date and time.

"I felt welcomed and everyone
was cordial and enjoyable company.
We had a lots of laughs and great
conversations, and most of all, fellowship!"

Mike Lipiec
Graphic Designer, EGN

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Jon Bostjancic is our newest case manager. He's been in the field of Social Work for the last 13 years. Jon says that he looks forward to continuing Jeff Grego's spirit and commitment as an advocate and voice for the HIV community.

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural Aids Alliance

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

For more information, contact:

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

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office:
15870 Route 322 Suite 2
Clarion, PA 16214

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Hàgase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

On stage

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

June 24- Ember Swift in Buffalo, NY at Nietzsche's www.nietzsches.com/

Jun 23-24 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "Let Us Entertain You" at Rockwell Center, Buffalo State College www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/

Jun 28 - "Falsettos" at Buffalo United Artists, Buffalo NY <http://www.buffalobua.org/enter1.html>

Jun 29-Jul 1 - Cirque du Soleil "Delirium" Pittsburgh, Mellon Arena www.cirquedusoleil.com

Jul 6 - Aug 5 - "Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte" at Directors Circle Theatre, Renaissance Centre, Erie PA.

Jul 6 - 7 - Johnny Mathis in Pittsburgh, Heinz Hall.

Jul 10 - Melissa Etheridge in Cleveland, Allen Theatre/PlayhouseSquare. www.melissaetheridge.com/concerts/

Jul 12 - Pink in Cleveland OH at House of Blues www.hob.com/

Jul 22 - Dixie Chicks in Pittsburgh at Mellon Arena www.dixiechicks.com and www.mellonarena.com/

Jul 27 - Joan Jett & the Blackhearts "Vans Warped Tour" Burgettstown PA at Post-Gazette Pavilion <http://www.post-gazettepavilion.com>

Aug 1 - Joan Jett & the Blackhearts "Vans Warped Tour" Darien Lake NY at Darien Center www.darienlakeconcerts.com

Aug 4-5 - Cirque du Soleil "Delirium" Cleveland, OH Quicken Loans Arena www.cirquedusoleil.com

Websites/email lists for area performers

Judith Avers www.judithavers.com/

Bob Bearfield www.bobbearfield.com

Carrie Sample www.myspace.com/carriesample

Jocelyn Porter Project www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

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

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 MICHAEL WEISS
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FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 814-451-1153
THE DIRECTORS CIRCLE THEATRE IS LOCATED AT 100 STATE ST. ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CENTER.

Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte Makes its Community Theatre Debut at The Directors Circle Theatre

by Michael Weiss

When Steve Murray of Make It So Productions in San Francisco and Matthew Martin, who adapted it from the screenplay *Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte* revived this 1994 satire at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre last summer, they had no idea its effect would be felt somewhere as far away as Erie, Pennsylvania.

Local director and actress Jo Laurie and her husband happened to be in the audience one night and contacted Michael Weiss of the Directors Circle Theatre upon their return, with glowing reviews of what they had seen. When Weiss contacted Steve Murray and asked about production rights, he was met with dead silence. "I asked if he was still on the line", Weiss said, and Murray replied: "Well... we hadn't expected this..." After several weeks of negotiations, Directors Circle was given the go-ahead to produce it this summer. Make It So Productions had had to prove to 20th Century Fox that their production was a spoof of the film, and not a literal copy from screen to stage.

The film, released in 1964, starred Bette Davis, Olivia de Havilland, Joseph Cotton and Agnes Moorehead. In *Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte*, the main characters played by Davis and de Havilland are played by men in drag. In the San Francisco production, nationally and internationally known female impersonators Matthew Martin and Varla Jean Merman portrayed these parts.

For those unfamiliar with the storyline, Charlotte Hollis, a middle aged, wealthy spinster lives in a big house on a rural Louisiana plantation that has been in her family since the days of the antebellum South.

The parish intends to demolish her plantation house and build a new highway through the property. This decision is met with opposition from Charlotte, who ignoring the eviction notice and refusing to leave, keeps the foreman, his crew and bulldozer away with her rifle as she shoots at them.

In 1927, Charlotte was in love with a married man, John Mayhew. Her father found out they were planning to run away together and insists that Mayhew put an end to the affair. During a ball at the Hollis plantation, John meets Charlotte in the summer house and breaks off their relationship and she runs from him crying. Later that night, he is found brutally slaughtered, missing a hand and his head. Though everyone believed Charlotte murdered Mayhew, her guilt was never proven.

Miriam Deering, Charlotte's cousin, arrives to help Charlotte with her dilemma. Strange things begin happening that threaten to drive Charlotte over the edge, as she begins her descent into madness.

While true to the original screenplay, add in two female impersonators, some outrageous costumes, and sight and sound gags, this hilarious production takes on an entire different attitude, while maintaining the integrity of the original story.

Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte opens July 6 and plays Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays thru August 5 at The Directors Circle Theatre, 1001 State St. on the second floor of the Renaissance Centre. All performances are at 8 PM and ticket prices are \$11 general admission, \$8 for seniors and students and include the 3% amusement tax recently imposed by City Council.

The production is directed by Michael Weiss and Caryl Unsel and stars Buddy Pacy as Charlotte, Jeff Rodland (*The Mystery of Irma Vep*) as Miriam, Barb Sambroak, Bobbi Kocher, Michael Weiss, Don Kirsch, Rick Liebel, Joe Spusta, Bob Sambroak as well as a supporting cast.

Directors Circle has also produced in the past *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, *Boys in the Band*, *Bent* and *Twilight of the Gods*. You don't want to miss what is sure to be a summer smash hit. Call the Box Office to make reservations at 814-451-1153.

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

Butler Area GLBT Support Group Jul 26, Aug 23, Sep 27 Ginger Hill UU Congregation, 174 S Main St, Slippery Rock, PA. 7 PM. Contact Reid at (724) 735-4407 butlerdiversity@yahoo.com.

Planning meeting for Fall Pride Event Jul 16, Aug 20, Sep 17 Panera's at Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie, PA. 2 PM. Meeting to plan for Erie's Fall Pride event. The event will be held on September 30. Contact: Dan Burdick. Phone: (814) 602-0252. Email: eriegaypride@yahoo.com. Browse to http://eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/event_eriegaynews.com.

Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD) Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 11 218 E 11th St, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Cindy Purvis. Phone: (814) 453-4113. Email: cindypurvis@velocity.net. Browse to www.erielead.org

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11 Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark H pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Phone: John at (814) 454-1392.

Support group for those dealing with loss Jul 11 at 7 PM, Jul 20 at 10 AM, Aug 8 at 7 PM, Aug 17 at 10 AM, Sep 12 at 7 PM, Sep 21 at 10 AM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

The Guys at Aroma's Coffeehouse Jun 21, Jul 12, Aug 2, Aug 23, Sep 13, Oct 4 2174 W 8th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together for gay/bi men at this local coffeehouse. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>

"A Senate committee on Thursday approved a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage, apparently forgetting that our forefathers wore wigs and satin Capri pants." --Tina Fey

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National News Briefs

by Bob

PA Legislators Wrestle with Marriage Amendment Wording

Members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate are wrestling with the wording of a proposed amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

By a vote of 136-61, the House approved a comprehensive, antigay amendment that reads as follows: "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this Commonwealth, and neither the Commonwealth nor any of its political subdivisions shall create or recognize a legal status identical or substantially equivalent to that of marriage for unmarried individuals."

Among area state legislators, the vote on the amendment was split. Representatives Linda Bebk-Jones (D), Flo Fabrizio (D) and Matthew Good (R) voted against the amendment. Curt Sonney (R), John Evans (R) and Teresa Forcier (R) voted for it. Forcier and Sonney were both co-sponsors of the amendment.

Forcier was defeated in the May primary election and Bebk-Jones is not seeking reelection.

As the proposed amendment moved to the state Senate for consideration, the Senate Judiciary Committee changed the wording to read: "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this Commonwealth."

Erie County Senator Jane Earll proposed the change which was approved by the Committee on a 13-1 vote. Earll called her proposal a compromise "for those of us who have serious concerns about whether we should be amending the constitution." Earll noted that there are no court challenges to the state's existing marriage definition law.

"Many of us believe we are fighting ghosts, hypothetical ghosts that may appear in the future, which I think is a very scary dangerous precedent," Earll said.

If the Committee's version of the amendment is approved by the full Senate, it will have to go back to the House for another vote. Conservatives are criticizing the wording change since it potentially opens the door to permitting civil unions, something they oppose.

In Pennsylvania, in order to amend the state Constitution, the exact proposal must be approved by both chambers of the General Assembly in two consecutive legislative sessions and then be placed on the election ballot for the voters' approval.

Gov. Ed Rendell says he opposes the marriage amendment, but by law, has no veto power over a constitutional amendment.

Federal Marriage Amendment Dead for Now

As right-wing conservatives continue their crusade to "protect marriage," they suffered a big loss at the federal level.

In the U.S. Senate, a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, strongly backed by President George Bush and the religious right, was defeated 49-48. Because it was a constitutional amendment, the proposal needed 60 votes in order to move ahead. It failed to gain even a simple majority and in fact, garnered only one more vote than it did when proposed in 2004.

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National News Briefs

Pennsylvania's two U.S. Senators split on the vote with Republican Arlen Specter voting against the proposed amendment and Republican Rick Santorum voting for it.

Even though the Senate killed the measure for now, Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives plan to stage their own vote on the amendment in the coming weeks. The proposal has little if any chance of winning approval in the House, and Democrats have called the proposed vote a ploy to play-up to conservative voters prior to the November Congressional elections.

Marchers Defy Angry Mobs in Poland

Marchers supporting the rights of gays braved abuse from egg-throwing skinheads in Warsaw, Poland, to stage an international rally in this gay-hostile and overwhelmingly Catholic country.

Nearly 3,000 people by police estimates, 6,000 according to rally organizers, turned out for the Equality Parade in which gay rights activists waved and marched through the center of the Polish capital. The marchers were surrounded by some 2,000 policemen called in to prevent a repeat of last year's clashes with right-wing extremists.

A Warsaw police spokesman said 14 skinheads, some of them carrying tear gas canisters, were arrested, but for the most part, the demonstration was peaceful.

Local marchers were joined by politicians and activists from elsewhere in Europe, including Germany, France, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Gay rights organizations say Polish homosexuals live in a climate of hatred and fear that has grown

worse since the far-right League of Polish Families (LPR) party recently entered Poland's governing coalition.

In both 2004 and 2005, the gay parade was banned in Warsaw by then mayor Lech Kaczynski, who is now the president of Poland. But last year, several thousand people defied Kaczynski's ban and marched through the capital, where they ran into sometimes violent opposition from the far right.

Like President Kaczynski, leading Polish politicians have not shied away from publicly voicing homophobic opinions. Conservative Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz recently compared homosexuality to a disease whose spread must be stopped.

Australian Government Quashes Civil Unions

The conservative government of Australian Prime Minister John Howard has invoked special powers to invalidate a territorial law that had been the first in Australia giving legal recognition to same-sex relationships.

Last month, the Australian Capital Territory, which includes Canberra, the nation's capital, became the first of Australia's six states and two territories to legally recognize gay and lesbian relationships. The law established a domestic relationship — separate from marriage — under which same-sex couples were to be given the same rights as heterosexual partnerships.

In a rarely used move however, Australia's Attorney General used the federal government's power

(continued on next page)

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National News

(continued from previous page)

over territories to invalidate the law. It was Howard's center-right coalition government which amended federal marriage laws in 2004 to ensure that only men and women can marry.

Soulforce Protesters Receive Fines

A Utah judge has fined most of the 29 protesters who were arrested in April during their demonstrations at Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah.

The BYU protest was part of the Soulforce Equality Ride, which visited 19 colleges, universities and military academies with anti-LGBT policies during its five-week tour.

Jacob Reitan, co-director of the Soulforce Youth Project, said he had no regrets. "Part of doing non-violence is to understand you're breaking the law," he told the PlanetOut Network.

The judge ordered 21 of the protesters to pay \$200 fines. A hearing is set for July 5 for the other eight protesters who were arrested. Four BYU students who participated in the Soulforce rallies were placed on probation. One of the students who is gay, was given a stronger type of probation and indicated he planned to leave BYU to enroll at the University of Utah. BYU is run by the Mormon church.

HRC Head to Launch Radio Talk Show

XM Satellite Radio will launch a new talk show in July featuring the head of the Human Rights Campaign.

"The Agenda with Joe Solmonese" will include a blend of politics, entertainment and cultural news and interviews with newsmakers. It is scheduled to debut July 17 as the first gay-oriented show on XM's 170-digital channel lineup.

The Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBT rights group in the nation, plans to use the radio program as a tool to reach into homes and cars in rural and urban areas across the country.

"This is a unique opportunity to engage millions of Americans in a real conversation about what it

means to be gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender today," Solmonese said.

The show will air on XM channel 200. XM currently has more than 6.5 million subscribers.

Phelps Sued Over Funeral Protest

In the first-ever suit of its kind in federal court, the parents of a Marine killed in Iraq have filed suit against the Westboro Baptist Church, the radical anti-gay clan that has been protesting at the funerals of soldiers killed in war.

The Topeka, KS, church, run by the Rev. Fred Phelps, a disbarred attorney, is comprised mainly of the extended Phelps family, and operates the Web site Godhatesfags.com. Phelps maintains that God is punishing the United States for the country's gay-friendly policies and over the last two years, Phelps has expanded his antigay protests to include military funerals. Last month, Congress passed a ban on such demonstrations at national cemeteries, and President Bush signed the measure into law on Memorial Day.

At the Catholic funeral for Corp. Matthew A. Snyder, 20, who died in Iraq on March 3, seven Westboro church members were present, carrying signs reading, "Thank God for Dead Soldiers."

The lawsuit, filed in federal court, is the first suit brought by a military family member against Phelps' church. The Snyders are seeking actual and punitive damages, claiming defamation, invasion of privacy and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Pride Picnic photos

can be seen at
www.eriegaynews.com

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Santorum's tired of being nice to gay people

by Deb Spilko

Sen. Rick Santorum sees the antigay Federal Marriage Amendment as “an opportunity to get beyond, you know, ‘We should treat everybody nicely.’” He made the remarks on May 24, while on the nationally-syndicated talk show *Jane Parshall's America*. He also called same-sex marriage “harmful to our country,” and insulted *Brokeback Mountain* and what he called “alternative lifestyles.”

The exchange is as follows:

PARSHALL: Senator, you have said this before and I take great comfort from it. Whether or not we get the two thirds we need to get this [Federal Marriage Amendment] moving in the Senate, we win regardless. Every time we have this discussion, every time we speak back to the culture, the importance of the primacy of marriage as it was originally defined as between a man and a woman -- that's a winning posture.

SANTORUM: It is. If you think about it, Janet, from everything from *Brokeback Mountain* to, you know, all the TV shows that you see promoting and affirming alternative lifestyles -- I guess to put it nicely -- you would think that the culture would eventually just move in the other direction. But I think these kind of debates are the chance for a public discourse to counter what Hollywood is purveying to our young people. Not just what Hollywood is purveying to young people, to all people. And it's an opportunity for us to get beyond, you know, ‘We should treat everybody nicely.’ I'm for treating everybody nicely, but that doesn't mean that we need to change the law to recognize a form of marriage that is harmful to our country.

PARSHALL: Mm hmm.

The Federal Marriage Amendment failed to pass, but people like Santorum (and the wingnut who was interviewing him) indicate that they have no intention of letting up on the issue. And it is obviously not just the marriage issue with these people. The remarks in this exchange illustrate how the extreme right is using the issue to serve broader antigay purposes.

Bob Casey: Santorum's Democratic opponent

As you probably know, Bob Casey, Jr. won the Democratic primary in May, and will face off against Santorum in the fall general election.

When it comes to GLBT rights, Casey presents a major alternative to Santorum's aggressively homophobic politics.

This is from Advocate.com 2/21/2006:

‘Casey also opposes same-sex marriage but favors allowing same-sex couples to join in civil unions that could provide many of the same state-level benefits as marriage. He also favors allowing nonmarried couples to receive benefits such as power of attorney and health benefits. “The values I live by call on me to fight discrimination wherever I find it,” Casey said.’

The Human Rights Campaign—a national GLBT rights group— is using its website for fundraising for the Casey campaign.. The following is from their website:

“In stark contrast [to Santorum] stands Bob Casey's commitment to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. One of the first actions Casey took when he was elected Auditor General in 2001 was to implement a non-discrimination policy for his office that included sexual orientation. He opposes the Federal Marriage Amendment, and any attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution to deny rights to same-sex couples and their families. He supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act as well as the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and believes that adoption decisions should be made without prohibitions or limitations based on the sexual orientation of the parents.”

Casey is currently ahead in the polls. However, supporters are concerned about one possible problem area for the Democratic candidate—his opposition to abortion rights. Activists working to unseat Santorum are hoping that progressive voters will try to see what a serious threat Santorum is, and choose Casey, regardless of what differences they might have with him on certain issues.

Links for sources in this article can be seen at the web version of this article at www.eriegaynews.com

Pride Picnic Pics



Counterclockwise, from upper left corner: Beth and Kate, who rode down from Jamestown NY; Rod; Bob, Christine Volk, and Jo Hyatt; Paul s and Raven. Lots more photos at the EGN website! Browse to www.eriegaynews.com/pride for links to photo galleries.

Photos on this page by Deb Spilko



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