

July 2007



EGN

Erie Gay News



4th of July Parade

by Michael Mahler

The GLBT community and its allies have been invited to participate in the Millcreek July 4 Parade. Everyone interested is invited to gather at 10 AM on July 4 around W. 12th St. and Marshall Ave. (the Erie Insurance building and also former site of Lizzy Bordon's.) Look for the Erie Peace and Justice banner, as well as the Erie Gay News banner and the big rainbow banner. The parade will be marching to Erie International Airport.

Last year was the first time the GLBT community participated in the parade, but because there was little advance notice about the participation, only a few people were able to attend. Despite this, the marchers were very well received. Lots of people smiled and waved and Sean Lafferty of WJET TV 24 News announced the gay contingent at the end, along with all of the other contingents that were marching. The closest thing to a negative experience was one elderly man who said "Boo!" and gave the thumbs down.

Organization banners are permitted in the parade, but individual signs with political messages are not. Participants representing a group are urged to bring their banner along! In addition, help carrying the big rainbow banner would be appreciated. It made a beautiful visual statement, but more people are needed to carry it.

Certainly, supporting GLBT events like the Pride Picnic and the March/Rally are extremely important. However, it is equally important to represent the GLBT community in a positive manner at non-gay events. There is room for all sorts of participation, and by having a great turnout, the GLBT community will benefit a great deal. It is also a lot of fun!

So, get out those marching shoes and join your GLBT friends and supporters on July 4!



Tim Smith (left) with Brian Lonyo (right) at Pride Night at the Zone.

PHOTO: James von Loewe

Benefit for Tim Smith

There will be a benefit for Tim Smith on July 8 from 1 to 6 PM to help cover medical costs for treatment of cancer of his kidneys. The event will be held at the American Legion, Carl Neff Post 571, 1917 Eastern Avenue, Erie, PA and will include fun, food, beverages, games, Chinese auction, 50/50 and LIVE entertainment from the band "Loose Change." There will also be karaoke and music from DJ Bob. Tickets are \$7 per person and are available at the American Legion Post 571 and the Fiddle Inn, 6615 Buffalo Rd, Harborcreek.

Erie Gay Pride Rally set for Aug. 25

Erie's LGBT community and their supporters will be showing their pride Saturday, Aug. 25, at the annual Erie Gay Pride March/Rally.

Sponsored by Erie Gay Pride, Inc., activities will get underway at 12 noon as Pride marchers gather in

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

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: July 15 (Sunday),
will be out night of Tuesday, July 24.

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

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

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

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

Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words!



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

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

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

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

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

Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, Jack Walburn, James von Loewe, Michelle Willey, Michael R Komo, Lynne Rhodes and Don for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King, Brian How and Jack for distribution. Bob for proofreading. Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.



YIPPEE KI YAY! JULY 21ST RODEO Cowboy Party

It's time to
GET OUT!
Meet up with your
family and friends
for outdoor fun,
The Oasis Patio
NOW open!

Mosey on down to Trance for a rodeo party!
Doors open at 9 PM for you to dance the Cotton-Eye
Joe all night long! Drink specials and wild West
giveaways from your favorite cowboys

July 28th Hawaiian Night

Trance Night Club is goin' Hawaiian.
The beauty and excitement of the
Hawaiian Islands is coming to Erie
for an evening of dance, music, and
exotic food. Get in early for a special
Hawaiian Treat!



ERIE'S NEW ALTERNATIVE NIGHTSPOT!
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DJ Rob Fridays spinn' the hottest in R&B, retro and radio hits
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Community News

(continued from front page)

the parking lot at The Zone Dance Club, 133 W. 18th St. The march is expected to step off at 1 PM and proceed down State Street to Perry Square. Individuals who do not want to march the entire route are welcome to join the marchers anywhere along the State Street route.

At the Perry Square rally site, a variety of vendors and information booths will be set up. There will also be entertainment and several guest speakers. Steve Glassman, chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, is expected to be among this year's speakers. The various speeches are scheduled to begin about 2 PM.

Those seeking more information about the Erie Gay Pride March/Rally and those interested in volunteering should call Erie Gay Pride, Inc. at 1-866-229-1974.

Deadline for next issue is July 15



ZODIAC
dinor
dining on upper State Street

2516 State Street
Erie, PA
814-455-3543

Open Monday thru Thursday 7AM to 8PM
Friday and Saturday Open 24 Hours
Closing on Sunday at 3PM

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Zone's PRIDE March Fundraiser

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

Casino Night at Trance Raises Money for Erie Gay Pride Inc.

The money was flowing and the high-stakes action "intense" at times, but the June 3 Casino Night at Trance was all in fun and all for a good cause. Sponsored by Erie Gay Pride, Inc., the Casino Night raised \$915 which will be used to support this year's Erie Gay Pride March/Rally scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 25.

At the conclusion of the games, the participants were about to use their "play money" winnings to bid on the great auction prizes donated by area merchants and organizations including: Gary's Flowers, Eddie Bauers, Surf and Turf Marine, Starbuck's (Millcreek Mall), Tinseltown, Papa Joe's West, McHenry & Company, Bon Ton, Uncle Pete's Kitchen, Roadhouse Theatre, Jerome Arnold LMT, 10th Street Cafe and Market, Erie Sisters, Jewelry by Stephany, The Ultimate Cut, Mohr and More, Blue Heron Inn, WQLN, Mastercuts, Journey's, Celebrate Erie and Erie Art Museum.

This year's Erie Pride March/Rally will feature a variety of speakers, vendors and activities. Events



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Jeff Pattison / Dale Lubak
Owners Free Estimates

Community News

are expected to get underway at 12 noon with the Pride March which will end at Perry Square where the other activities will occur. For more information or to volunteer, call Erie Gay Pride, Inc. at 1-866-229-1974.

Photos from Casino Night can be viewed at www.eriegaynews.com

Carryin' On celebrates mid-century black gay life

The Andy Warhol Museum celebrates Black Queer Life in Pittsburgh's Hill District from the 1930's through the 1950's with a photo exhibition by Charles "Teenie" Harris (aka "One Shot").

Harris extensively documented African-American life in his photography (he created a collection of 80,000 photographs), and had a 40-year career with the *Pittsburgh Courier*, at one time the largest African-American publication in the country. The exhibit runs from June 15-August 31, 2007.

The Andy Warhol Museum is at 117 Sandusky St., Pittsburgh PA (412) 237-8300. Visit www.warhol.org

Stephanie Coontz at Chautauqua

Best-selling author Stephanie Coontz will speak at Chautauqua Institution on July 2 at 10:45 AM. She is the author of *Marriage, A History*, a best seller published in 2005, and *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*, and *The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families*.

Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples includes *Marriage, a History* in their list of recommended books. They write: "Family historian Coontz explodes all assumption about marriage, revealing that throughout history, marriage was not based on mutual love between a breadwinner husband and an at-home wife. Rather, it was an institution devoted to acquiring in-laws, and improving the family labor force. Coontz posits that the Victorians, with their radical emphasis on marital intimacy, and celebration of the individual, simultaneously made marriage more satisfying, and paved the way for the thriving of divorce, same-sex marriage, cohabitation and single parenting."

For more information on Stephanie Coontz, visit <http://stephaniecoontz.com> For Chautauqua Institution information visit www.ciweb.org or call 1.800.836.ARTS.

Trance Sunday Summer Concerts

from Joe & Mas Nova

Jake Johns, Bob Bearfield, and a special acoustic Mas Nova performance kick off our Sunday Summer Concert Series at Trance Night Club. Visit Summer Concert Series website: www.myspace.com/masnovasundays

All shows are on Sundays. Doors open at 9PM, Show begins promptly at 10 PM.

Jul 8 - Bob Bearfield, Jake Johns, Mas Nova (acoustic)

Jul 15 - TrevZeppelin

Jul 22 - Moving in Stereo

Jul 29 - Dirt McGurtt with Special Guests

Aug 5 - Spooner

Aug 12 - The Killerinas, Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Aug 19 - Matty D and the Dirty Pickles

Aug 26 - the telefonics

Sept 2 - Last show of Series. This will be an all-day event with all of the headliners from each week. More info on this soon.



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Calendar

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

Jun 30- Uncle Sam's Indepen-Dance Daze! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. We're looking for a few good men and women to celebrate the good ol' USA at the Zone's U.S.O. Independence Day Party. Wear red, white, or blue ... or military uniform from the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. Polish those boots and join us for some off-duty *fun!* 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 *Pridd!* Gay *fun!* Don't be AWOL- Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jun 30 - 2 Girls Alone perform Two Friends Italian Market, 827 State St, Erie, PA 7 - 9 PM. (814) 453-2328

Jun 30 - Youngstown Pride Picnic presented by the Youngstown Pride Center, 4 PM, First Unitarian Uni-

versalist Church of Youngstown, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown Ohio (330)747-7433

Jul 1 - Summer River Cruise (Pgh) 5 - 8:30 PM, boarding 4:30 PM sharp at Station Sq. Dock.. \$20 advance/\$25 gate (if available) In Erie, tickets can be purchased at The Zone or online at www.summerrivercruise.com

Jul 14 - Island Heat! Tropical Beach Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Aloha! Calling all Island Boys and Native Girls to come join us for some *hot* steamy fun and *cool* island drinks. Show off your summer tan. Wear your tight board shorts, grab your tiny bikini, and show off your Sexy beach bod. Prizes! Sexy Beach Body & Hula Contest. Win a weekend at Jones Pond Campground or Splash Lagoon Passes. Grab a frozen daiquiri, slip into your grass skirt and come get lei'd! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jul 21 - Rodeo Cowboy Party at Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar 1607 Raspberry St,

(continued on page 8)

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Corner of 2nd and Cherry

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Tuesday 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

STD Testing Hours:
Monday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Erie Office - Outreach Services
814-451-6727
Corry Office 814-663-3891

All your friends at the 
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Our dedicated volunteers: Brian and Larry, Gregg, John, the Hibbs family, Jeff, Gary, Peter, Brian, Deb Spilko and James von Loewe, Nicholas, Ashlee, Cristin, Millie, Keva, Michelle and Lori, Heather and Tara, Tony, Shirley, John Daly King, Dan Burdick, Collette, Angela, Tony, Shirley, Mark H, Michelle, Season and Chris, Kelsey, Nathan of Lumenessence, Mike Lipiec and Al and Maureen Koseff.



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This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant under
the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

Calendar

(continued from page 6)

Erie, PA. Yippee ki yay! Mosey on down to Trance for a rodeo party! Doors open at 9 PM for you to dance the Cotton-Eye Joe all night long! Drink specials and Wild West giveaways from your favorite cowboys. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Jul 21 - Menspace meets Jim and Greg's, 20996 Kightlinger Rd, Venango, PA. 7:30 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Bring a dish to pass, if you'd like. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 23 - Gay Day at Darien Lake (unofficial name) This is from Buffalo Gay Bars: "I am being told that this year will be the same as last year. Two tickets will be available—one is for admittance to the park and the other is for "all you can eat/drink" at the pavilion. Over 300 people roamed the park last year. The pop/beer will be available from 2 to 6 PM and the Dinner will be from 4 to 6 PM. Admission Tickets are Pre-Sale only (www.godarienlake.com). Pavilion tickets can be bought at the pavilion. More details at www.buffalogaybars.com

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

Jul 31-Aug 5 - Cleveland Black Gay Pride celebration Parties, lake cruise, Annual Family Picnic, Gospel Breakfast and Service, and more. Dancing, networking and fun in the sun—help us celebrate this auspicious event. We truly believe that "No matter who we are...we are family!" Visit www.bgpccleveland.com

Aug 1-5 - National Association of Black and White Men Together Annual Conference (Cleveland) Hosted by People of All Colors Together-Cleveland, www.nabwmt.org, www.pactcleveland.com, (877) 233-9479.

Aug 7-12 - Michigan Womyn's Music Festival www.michfest.com (231)757-4766.

Calendar

Aug 5 - Big Gay Boat Ride (Buffalo) Aboard the Miss Buffalo II. Presented by the Imperial Court of Buffalo. Dry Dock Party follows ride. Proceeds to benefit charities of ICOB Reign 17. Ticket info still not available. Visit: www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com

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

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

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

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

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

Java Buzz

Fredonia's Intermezzo Coffeehouse invites you

The award-winning Intermezzo Coffeehouse is a unique European coffeehouse located on the village square in downtown Fredonia, NY.

Specializing in gourmet coffees and espresso drinks, the Intermezzo also offers a wide array of blended frozen coffee beverages, all-natural fruit smoothies, milk shakes and a variety of homemade desserts and sweet treats. Culinary Institute of America-trained Chef Donn offers gourmet sandwiches, salads and homemade soups all day long. Intermezzo offers free DSL Internet service.

The Intermezzo recently was recognized as Outstanding Business Supporter of the Arts by the Arts Council for Chautauqua County in recognition of its live music performances, gallery art space and support of local civic festivals and events. Intermezzo is owned and operated by Monika Alch and Chef Donn Smeragliuolo who, with his partner of 24 years Rick Davis, welcome LGBT patrons with open arms.

Intermezzo Coffeehouse is located at 12 Park Place, Fredonia, NY 14063, (716) 672-6070. Hours of operation include Monday-Thursday from 7 AM - 8 PM, Friday and Saturday until 9 PM, and Sundays 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Visit: www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com for more information.

Coming up at Intermezzo...

Now through Aug 6 On display: *Pennsylvania Wilds: Images from the Allegheny National Forest* Photographs by Ed Bernik. Bernik will also be doing a slide show presentation, lecture and book signing on Thursday, June 28 at 8 PM at the coffeehouse.

June 20 and June 23 - The Chamber Program Chamber works by some of the world's most talented young artists. (These are student musicians from all over the country, as well as France, Japan, Canada and Korea —who are truly tops in their league.) 7:30 PM both nights.

July 22 - Victorian Tea Ties in with Fredonia's Victorian Dazzle Days. Visit www.festivalsfredonia.com

Rachael Sage performs at Eclectic Etceteras July 7

"Melodies that will break your heart... unforced passion and knowing observation."
RollingStone.com

East Village songstress and record label owner Rachael Sage will be appearing at Eclectic Etceteras in Edinboro on July 7.

Sage, whose music has been described by The Village Voice as "earthiness, color and emotion," is known for her vibrant performances that blend vaudevillian kitsch with classically tinged art-pop. She has appeared at Pride events all over North America.

Rachael Sage is truly a renaissance performer. Self-taught on the piano from age 3, she went on to study at The School of American Ballet in her adolescence, and later earned a degree in drama from Stanford University. Following Shakespearean studies at The New York Public Theater and a one-year stint with New York City's renowned Actors Studio, Sage rediscovered her passion for songwriting and took the New York City music scene by storm. She has been compared to such artists as Laura Nyro for her gorgeous piano driven melodies, and to Patti Smith for her dynamic poetry and emotional intensity.

Sage has earned media accolades for her songwriting talents, including Grand Prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, the Billboard Songwriting Award and First Prize in The Lilith Fair Talent Search; she also received the 2005 Outmusic Award (Best Songwriter) for her work on Ballads & Burlesque.

While on tour in France, her music was discovered by Judy Collins, who invited her to perform at several of her Wildflower Festivals along with Joan Osborne. Sage has also shared stages with Liz Phair, Melissa Etheridge and Marshall Crenshaw.

Rachael Sage appears Saturday July 7 at Eclectic Etceteras Coffee House, 118 Erie St., Edinboro at 1 PM (814) 734-2909



© Kevin Abosch

On-line Contest: “Hairspray” Prize Pack

by Mike Mahler

Erie Gay News has five prize packages to give away for the new movie musical version of *Hairspray!* The online contest will run from June 26 through July 27. One entry per person, please. You must enter the contest using the form linked at www.eriegaynews.com.

Official *Hairspray* Prize Pack includes: Copy of the official soundtrack on CD and a can of Ultra Clutch hairspray from Sebastian Professional - The Official spray for the movie!!

Hairspray will be in theaters July 20! The official web site for the movie is www.hairspraymovie.com and you can watch the trailer at www.apple.com/trailers/newline/hairspray/.

Almost twenty years after the release of the original *Hairspray* film, New Line Cinema is bringing a feature film adaptation of the Tony award-winning Broadway production to life.

Featuring new and original material based on John Waters' 1988 cult classic about star-struck teenagers on a local Baltimore dance show, the comedy features a remarkable collection of talent including John Travolta (in drag as Edna Turnblad), Queen Latifah, Michelle Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken, Amanda Bynes, Allison Janney, Brittany Snow, Zac Efron, Elijah Kelley, producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron (*Chicago*), and director Adam Shankman (*Bringing Down The House*). The new screenplay for *Hairspray* was written by Leslie Dixon (*Freaky Friday*, *Outrageous Fortune*).

Be sure to log on and enter this contest for an exciting opportunity to see the much talked-about film.



Jeremy
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814.464.5645
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GREAT LAKES FILM ASSOCIATION

Roadhouse Theatre
145 W. 11th. St.

Friday
JUNE 29th.
8:00pm

GREY GARDENS
The Documentary
See What Started It All...
B.Y.O.B.
W/Proper I.D.

Film

"Grey Gardens" (1975)

Presented by The Great Lakes Film Association

The Great Lakes Film Association announces the latest addition to its film series, "Kim Mc's Flick Pics." Lending the same cutting edge artistic style that the Roadhouse Theatre was founded on, Kim McClelland each month will present films designed to expand the intellect and provoke the senses.

For the inaugural presentation on Friday, June 29 at 8 PM, Kim has chosen *Grey Gardens, The Documentary*. Over a decade before *The Jerry Springer Show*, there was *Grey Gardens*, a 1975 documentary of truly questionable character. *Grey Gardens* is a film by the direction/cinematography/editing team of Albert and David Maysles, Susan Froemke, Ellen Hovde and Muffie Meyer.

The film depicts the everyday lives of two women who lived at *Grey Gardens*, a decrepit 28-room mansion in the tony Georgia Pond neighborhood of the wealthy resort of East Hampton, New York.

The Maysles brothers pay visits to Edith Bouvier Beale, nearing 80, and her daughter Edie, relatives of former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. Reclusive, the pair lives with cats and raccoons in the crumbling mansion. Edith is dry and quick-witted—a singer, married but later separated, a member of high society. Edie is voluble, dresses—as she puts it—for combat in tight ensembles that include scarves wrapped around her head. There are hints that Edie came home 24 years before to be cared for rather than to care for her mother. The women address the camera, talking over each other, moving from the present to events years before. They're odd, with flinty affection for each other.

This one night only special event will take place at 8 PM to be followed by a question and answer session hosted by Kim McClelland and a wine and cheese reception. This event is also BYOB with proper ID.

For more information or V.I.P. reservations, please call the Roadhouse Theatre box office between the hours of 2-6 PM Tuesday through Saturday at 814-456-5656.

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National News Briefs

by Bob

Groups Protest Bush's Surgeon General Nominee

Gay rights groups are criticizing President Bush's nomination of Kentucky cardiologist Dr. James Holsinger to be the nation's next Surgeon General.

Holsinger, who helped found a Methodist congregation that, according to gay rights activists, believes homosexuality is a matter of choice and can be "cured," voted to expel a lesbian pastor from the United Methodist Church. He also wrote in 1991 that gay sex is unnatural and unhealthy.

"He has a pretty clear bias against gays and lesbians," said Christina Gilgor, director of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, a gay rights group. "This ideology flies in the face of current scientific medical studies. That makes me uneasy that he rejects science and promotes ideology."

"On numerous occasions, Dr. Holsinger has taken up the banner for underrepresented populations, and he will continue to be a strong advocate for these groups and all Americans," said White House spokesman Blair Jones.

Holsinger served as Kentucky's health secretary and chancellor of the University of Kentucky's medical center. He taught at several medical schools and spent more than three decades in the Army Reserve, retiring in 1993 as a major general. His supporters, including fellow doctors, faculty members and state officials, said he would never let his theological views affect his medical ones.

When Holsinger was president of the Methodist Church's national Judicial Council last year, he voted

to support a pastor who blocked a gay man from joining a congregation. In 2004, he voted to expel a lesbian from the clergy, even though the majority of the panel voted to keep the woman in place, citing questions about whether she had openly declared her homosexuality.

In the 1991 paper he wrote for the church, Holsinger compared the reproductive organs to male and female "pipe fittings" and argued that homosexuality is therefore biologically unnatural.

"When the complementarity of the sexes is breached, injuries and diseases may occur," Holsinger wrote, citing studies showing higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men and the risk of injury from anal sex. He wrote the paper at a time when the Methodist Church was considering a more open stance on allowing practicing homosexuals to join.

Gay Think Tank Wants Part in Debate

A new think tank specializing in gay issues is being established in an effort to have a strong voice in the U.S. debate over same-sex marriage and other matters impacting the gay community.

The new group, The Rockway Institute, is seeking to counter the influence of religious conservatives by beating them at their own game.

The Institute was created by executive director Robert-Jay Green, a California psychology professor who says the media, courts and politicians often make

(continued on next page)

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National News Briefs

(continued from previous page)

wrong assumptions about what the latest scientific research shows.

Green is building a team of 100 experts who hope to serve as authoritative witnesses in court cases or testify before state legislatures as they weigh laws affecting gay rights. Green also plans to challenge organizations that have lobbied against same-sex marriage or same-sex parenting rights using what he called "pseudo science."

"Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council are basically media machines churning out press releases, policy reports, appearing on talk shows constantly conveying their messages and distorting the actual research findings," Green told *Reuters* news service in an interview.

"There is not a single iota of scientific evidence showing that children raised by lesbian and gay parents do less well than children raised by a heterosexual mother and father," he said.

In addition to gay marriage, Green wants The Rockway Institute to engage public opinion on a variety of other important issues including protection for gay youths in schools, mental health and substance abuse, and what he considers the dangers of "conversion therapies" that aim to turn homosexuals straight.

"Wherever there's a debate about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues," Green said, "we would like to be involved."

IKEA honored for gay-friendly ad

Retail icon IKEA took top honors at the Commercial Closet Association awards, celebrating the best gay-friendly ad campaigns in mainstream print, broadcast and Internet media.

The winning advertising spot was IKEA's "Living Room" ad with a gay couple resting on the floor with their daughter and dog. The narrator asks, "Why shouldn't sofas come in flavors, just like families?"

Other award winners included Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, Subaru and Nokia.

The Clean-Up-Your-Act Notice went to DaimlerChrysler for its Dodge Caliber commercial featuring a muscular man taunting a female fairy with the words, "Heh, heh, silly little fairy." In response, the fairy turns the man into a pastel sweater-dressed man

walking four Pomeranians on pink leashes, who reacts with a squeal. The narrator then says the new Dodge Caliber is "anything but cute."

Legislature Blocks Anti Gay Marriage Amendment in Mass.

An effort in Massachusetts to have the public vote on a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage has been blocked by the state's legislature.

"In Massachusetts today, the freedom to marry is secure," said a victorious Gov. Deval Patrick, who had lobbied lawmakers to kill the measure. The legislature's narrow vote was a blow to efforts to reverse the historic court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in the state. More than 8,500 gay couples have married there since it became legal in May 2004.

As the tally was announced, the halls of the Statehouse erupted in applause. The proposal, which sought to change the state's Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, needed 50 votes to advance to the 2008 statewide ballot. It got 45, with 151 lawmakers opposed.

"We're proud of our state today, and we applaud the Legislature for showing that Massachusetts is strongly behind fairness," said Lee Swislow, executive director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

While opponents of gay marriage vowed to press on, the legislative vote after more than three years of debate could prove to be the final blow. Any effort to mount a new ballot question would take years at a time when political support in Massachusetts is swinging firmly behind gay marriage.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, now a Republican candidate for president, called the vote "a regrettable setback" and said it makes it more important now to pass a national amendment banning gay marriage.

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Being Resolute

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer

I am writing this article shortly after I returned from the 45th Annual Meeting of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ. Central to this year's agenda was a resolution sent to the meeting from a rural church near Meadville. The resolution was in opposition to another resolution that was passed by the General Synod of the national United Church of Christ called, "In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All."

The General Synod Resolution asked the United Church of Christ to consider the possibility of recognizing unions between persons of the same sex as a way of supporting all couples who live in a committed relationship.

At the local level (the Penn West Conference) there was much concern that the national church's resolution had gone too far. Some people thought that it threatened traditional family values.

I arrived at this year's conference firmly convinced that the more conservative resolution would easily pass in Western Pennsylvania where people tend to be more traditional in their life-styles. The counter-resolution stated that "Christian marriage is to be understood as only between one man and one woman.

I was surprised, if not shocked, that the Penn West resolution did NOT pass!

By a comfortable majority, the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ would not insist that marriage is to be understood only in the traditional sense.

I will not get into the reasons I believe this occurred. To try to explain why a large group of people vote the way they do is an awesome and impossible task. I can only say with certainty that for many of us the issue came down to divorce.

We, as a church, have been lenient with those who have been divorced even though the Bible is clearly opposed to divorce and remarriage. In fact, it can be easily argued that the Bible has more to say in opposition to divorce than it does homosexuality! So, shouldn't we either give gay people a break or hold divorced people to a Biblical view of marriage? I know few Protestant churches that would be willing to take such a stand.

Needless to say, after the vote there were a number of people who were disturbed by its outcome. Knowing that would be the case, I attended a workshop called "Agreeing to Disagree...Moving Forward."

One of the most vocal in that group was a woman who was angry over the outcome of the vote. She told us that she had a very close family member who is gay and that she finds his lifestyle 'undesirable.' As she dominated the discussion, she became more and more angry to the point where she called the church leadership "hypocritical."

When someone in the group asked her if she thought that homosexuality is a choice, she said she did. She claimed that gay men (she said noting about women) "become" gay in order to avoid the responsibility of raising a family and/or being in a committed relationship.

Now I can certainly understand the frustration of being on the losing side of an issue. God knows I've been there many, many times in my life. I can also identify with the hurt that one feels when one is rejected; feeling that personal opinions aren't taken seriously.

But I do not understand the anger express by so many people towards gays. Most gay people I know are polite, considerate, kind, non-aggressive and calm. Most gay people are not a threat to our society at all. Most gay people are not aggressively angry.

So why is it that people react so strongly to resolutions such as the one that was sent down from the General Synod of our church?

The church -the one place where love should prevail- is often the 'chief of sinners' when it comes to justice and humility.

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

"Intolerance is the most socially acceptable form of egotism, for it permits us to assume superiority without personal boasting."

~ Sydney J. Harris

“Die Mommie Die” at Directors Circle

Fun, Camp and High Drama return to the Directors Circle Theatre’s stage this Summer!

Charles Busch’s stage farce “Die Mommie Die” comes to the Directors Circle Theatre beginning June 28.

The play presents a loving and hilarious homage to classic Ross Hunter-Douglas Sirk melodramas. Campy, sleazy and altogether marvelous, it’s a wicked play on the classic “women’s pictures” that were a cinema staple from the 1940s through the 60s. Actresses like Susan Hayward schemed and seduced callously, and encountered crises which were not only larger than their real-life counterparts, but also arrived with far greater frequency.

Buddy Pacy, who last year in “Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte” literally had audience members laughing on the floor, plays the title character, aging songstress Angela Arden, once half of a sister act but retired since her sibling’s suicide years earlier. She whiles away her days tending to the roses that bear her name, suffering through a bad marriage to a boorish movie producer (Eric Armbruster) and dallying with a dashing young gigolo named Tony Parker played by Nick Kikola.

Angela plots to kill her chronically constipated husband by dipping a suppository in arsenic. The plot, predictably, goes wildly off the deep end as Angela’s bratty, Daddy’s-girl daughter, Edie (Adele Crotty), and pothead son, Lance (Alex Bolla), try to prove their mother’s guilt while enjoying their own trysts with the frighteningly well-endowed Tony. Angela also dodges interference from the scheming housekeeper, Bootsie (played by Margo Wolfe) who has a few secrets of her own.

Chock-full of the same sort of bawdy humor and kitschy cultural references that made the Busch-penned, beach spoof “Psycho Beach Party” a comic success, “Die Mommie Die” is an over-the-top pastiche of John Waters-style raunch, Greek tragedy and weepy Sirkian soap. “Die Mommie Die” goes beyond mere camp and tells a compelling, if raunchy story that’s all its own.

The production is directed by Michael Weiss and will open at the Directors Circle Theatre on Thursday, June 28. It will play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays thru July 20.

For reservations and information, please call 814-451-1153. Directors Circle is located at 1001 State St on the second floor of the Renaissance Centre.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Erie Community Foundation, the Directors Circle is sporting luxurious and comfortable new seats.

Movers & Shakers



Jake Kaskey from Equality PA and Tara Reynolds from Value All Families Coalition, at their table at the 15th Annual Erie Pride Picnic at Presque Isle.

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Setup and maintenance of the text/links for a contest page at www.eriegaynews.com.

Email blast to our Erie GLBT News/Event email list announcing the contest. Currently, there are about 870 addresses on the list.

Link to your contest page from the home page at <http://www.eriegaynews.com>. The Erie Gay News domain gets about 12,000-13,000 unique visitors a month, about 30,000 visits and 500,000 to 600,000 hits.

Include you business' logo, with a link to your web site.

A list of winners is emailed to you. We will also email winners of the contest.

You will be responsible for the prize fulfillment. [i.e. we aren't shipping items to winners.] However, if your prize is to be picked up at your business, then that will be taken care by the email that is sent to contest winners.

Contest prizes and timing is subject to Erie Gay News approval.



Check Out Our Website at: www.eriegaynews.com
for our list of locations

NY Assembly approves marriage rights bill

From Empire Pride Agenda

Albany, New York—June 19, 2007—Today, the New York State Assembly passed a bill to allow same-sex couples equal access to marriage by a bipartisan vote of 85 to 61.

The Assembly acted to end marriage discrimination less than a year after New York's high court failed to do so.

The leadership of the State Senate has taken no action on the Governor's bill (S.5884). Senator Tom Duane is leading the effort to pass the bill in the Senate.

For details and background on the bill, visit Empire Pride Agenda www.prideagenda.org

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270 enjoy food and fun at Pride Picnic

by Mike Mahler

Under warm sunny skies, the 15th Annual Pride Erie Picnic took place June 2 at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park. About 270 people representing many different aspects of the gay community and their supporters attended this year's event.

Food donations were also collected for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwestern PA. This year's total of 153 pounds of food was an all time record.

Businesses and organizations with tables at the event included Community Health Net, Equality Advocates of Pennsylvania, Erie County Department of Health, Erie Gay News, Gaudenzia Crossroads/SHOUT Outreach, PFLAG Erie/Crawford County and Value All Families Coalition. Both WICU TV-12 and WJET TV-24 had coverage, and WICU also included footage of setting up for the Family Portrait.

Of course, the Erie Pride Picnic would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

Contributing to this year's picnic were Trance Night Club, Zone Dance Club, Uncle Pete's Kitchen, Coca-Cola Erie, Wegman's - Peach St., Cobb's Second Time Around, Jerome Arnold, LMT/Lake Erie Spine and Injury Center, Erie Sisters, GLENDA Northwest, Plaza Lanes (Meadville), Two Friends Italian Market, Pie in the Sky Café, Blue Heron Inn, Papa Joe's Pepperoni Café (Downtown), All Gay Pride Merchandise, Wal-Mart (Peach St.), Williams Gardening Services and Say What? Productions.

The Watchfire Alliance of Chautauqua County, NY presented a fun comedy improv workshop. About 12 people tried this out and had a great time. Many thanks to Kate and Bethany Robson for organizing this.

As always, many volunteers keep the event going. Thanks go out to Brian and Larry, Gregg (who made the yummy Sloppy Joe's), John, Dok, Jamie, Joshua, Rachel, Gregory and Rebecca (aka the Hibbs family), Jeff, Gary, Peter, Brian, Deb Spilko and James von Loewe (our roving photographers), Nicholas Keech, Ashlee, Cristin, Millie, Keva, Michelle Haskell and Lori Horner, Heather and Tara, Dan Burdick, Collette, Angela, Tony, Shirley, John Daly King, Mark H, Michelle, Season and Chris, Kelsey, Nathan of Lumenessence and Al and Maureen Koseff. Thanks also to Mike Lipiec for creating the flyer.

Many thanks to Jamie for organizing the scavenger hunt and Queer Trivial Pursuit.

Long time ally and picnic attendee Joy Greco wasn't able to make it this year, as her husband had recently passed on. A condolence card was signed by attendees. Joy sent her regrets for not being able to attend.

Finally, a HUGE thanks to the wonderful women from Meadville/Venango County area who offered their time and trucks in helping us to transport all the picnic stuff after the event was over.

See you next year!

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Out & About



*Photos from the 15th Annual
Pride Picnic, held on June 2. Lots
more Picnic photos at
www.eriegaynews.com
Clockwise from top: Lucy and AJ;
Alex Bolla; Daniel and Kevin
with Kurt, Chuck, and friend;
Mike; EGN photographer James
von Loewe; Dok and grandson;
Tab and Tam; Ken and Jeff*



*Photos taken by James von Loewe
and Deb Spilko*



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