#### April 2014 - Issue 221



# 2014 Primary Candidate Forum on April 16

#### from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance and other co-sponsoring groups are presenting a Candidate Forum on Wednesday, April 16 at 7 PM at First Niagara Bank Community Room, 801 State St, Erie PA. (Enter by the E 8th St door). There is no charge to attend, and there will be light refreshments served.

Please come to learn more about where candidates stand on issues affecting the LGBT community! Co-sponsoring organizations currently include NW PA Pride Alliance, Erie Gay News, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, LBT Women of Erie, Marriage Equality for PA, NW PA NOW, Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition, Persad Center, PFLAG of Erie & Crawford Counties, and TransFamily of Erie Support Group.

# Laramie Project theatre group comes to Mercyhurst April 24

#### from Mercyhurst Theatre Program

The Mercyhurst Theatre Program will present *The Laramie Project* by Moisés Kaufman and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project on April 24.

Background: In October 1998 a 21-year-old student at the University of Wyoming was kidnapped, severely beaten and left to die, tied to a fence in the middle of the prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming. He died several days later in an area hospital. His name was Matthew Shepard, and he was the victim of this assault because he was gay. Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie over the course of a year and a half in the aftermath of the beating and during the trial of the two young men accused of killing Shepard. They conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of the town. Kaufman and Tectonic Theater members have constructed a deeply moving theatrical experience from these interviews and their own experiences.

The Laramie Project will be performed on April 24



Veronica and Alex share some thoughts after the Equality PA Kickoff on March 13. Article on page 6, more photos on our website.

Photo by Deb Spilko

at Mercyhurst University, Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA 8 PM - 12:20 AM. Adult \$10, Senior/ Student/PC \$7 Youth/MUStu w/ID - \$5. Browse to www.mercyhurst.edu/.

#### Craze Night Club says goodbye

#### By Anthony J. Gressley

On March 23, 2014 at 2am, Craze Night Club closed its doors for the final time.

For six years, Craze provided a fun and safe place for all of the LGBT community. We provided the *only* true college night in the area, allowing all adult members of the LGBT community a safe place to freely express themselves without fear of persecution or judgment.

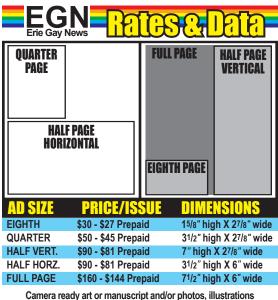
Craze has been a part of the LGBT community and the greater Erie area as a whole since our inception. We have hosted and sponsored events throughout Erie, including Marriage Equality for Pennsylvania and the

(continued on page 3)

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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-1105 Phone: (814) 456-9833 Fax: (530) 451-9833 info@eriegaynews.com www.eriegaynews.com

**Editor: Mike Mahler** 

Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko Ad Design: Mike Lipiec Deadline for next issue: April 14; Folding and distribution is Tue, April 22 at Mental Health Association.

#### ISSN 2159-1792

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.



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# **Community News**

#### (continued from front page)

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality and co-sponsoring Dramashop's staged reading of Dustin Lance Black's 8.

Over these six years, the Craze Stage has seen performers from New York City, Chicago, Orlando, Seattle, San Francisco, as well as the Erie triangle (Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo). Our stage was where a lot of performers got their start. Lola LeCroix, Cammy Seoul, Sasha Alexander, Akirah Hurricane, and Lovin Heart were all born on our stage.

Within our walls, new and lasting friendships were formed and relationships were born. Several couples met here and are now engaged or married. I, personally, have friendships that wouldn't exist without Craze, and for that I couldn't be more thankful.

Thank you goes to all of our staff, performers, and patrons. It is because of you we've been here as long as we have.

As our closing of college night goes, "We love you, Erie, but unfortunately it's time to go."

#### PSU Behrend LGBTQ conference Apr 11-12

Info from Sarah Whitney

Representatives from thirteen campuses from across the Pennsylvania State University will gather together for an unprecedented conference on LGBTQ issues April 11-12

Topics include: LGBTQ Youth and Family, Queering Penn State History, Achieving A More Welcoming Community At Penn State Workshop, Student Discussions of Faith and LGBTQ issues, Queer Representations in Television, from Downton Abbey to Starz' Spartacus, Assessing Queer and Trans Climate Studies (special guest Susan Rankin), HIV/ AIDS in Research and Memory, ENDA and Workplace Issues, Address by the PSU Commission on LGBTQ Equity, and much, much more!

Panels and workshops are free and open to the public. There is no fee to register. We merely ask that you send your name to our email at psu.lgbtq@gmail. com and we will make you a nametag. For full schedule visit article on EGN homepage.



# **Community News**

#### Get in on the fun at DF10 at Splash Lagoon

by Gary Snyder

Been thinking about joining the guys of Drenched Fur? Wanted to go to Splash Lagoon but with just a group of good guys and no children? It's that time of year again! The largest group of bears for Drenched Fur 10 invite you to join them in April.

On Thursday, April 10th, Drenched Fur 10 will be kicking things off with the early arrivals for a night of Karaoke at Victor's inside the Clarion Hotel and Bel-Aire Conference Center, at 2800 West 8th Street. Then on Friday, April 11th, the weekend continues when local guys can join us at the Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA, standard cover charge at the door. Wrapping up the weekend is our exclusive event at the Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort. The event is from 10 PM-2 AM and the admission is \$40 per person.

If community members wish to participate in the private event at Splash Lagoon, or at the Clarion

Hotel, there is a 21 and over age limit because of the presence of alcohol for events. The Splash Lagoon Event is sponsored by DF10 and is part of Erie's Bear Run Weekend.

Over 250 visitors are expected from around the USA. The full listing of events for the weekend can be found at the Drenched Fur website and include a local tours, charity auction for the Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, vendor market, and more! Commemorative DF10 beach towels are also available to order via our website at www.drenchedfur.com.

For more information contact DF10 Run Coordinator, Gary at gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com or leave a message at 814-446-2327.

Check out EGN's special bonus content online at eriegaynews.com ... Photos, videos, contests, news, reviews and more.

## **LGBTO OUESTIONS?** WE HAVE ANSWERS PERSAD CENTER'S COMMUNITY SAFE ZONE PROGRAM PERSAD CENTER's Community Safe Zone program works to people in western PA. Community Safe Zone partners with law PFRSAD groups and other organizations to create safe communities. If

CONTACT SAFE ZONE COORDINATOR TED HOOVER

eliminate bullying, hate crimes and discrimination aimed at LGBTQ enforcement, schools, social service agencies, churches, community you, or someone you know, have been the victim of a bias-related incident, PERSAD can assist you in getting the help you need.

### 1-888-873-7723 ext. 218 • persadcenter.org

# Become a Pride Donor!

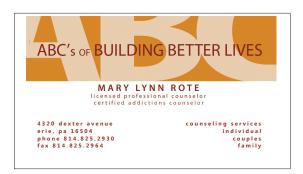
#### by NW PA Pride Alliance

As the Northwest PA (NW PA) Pride Alliance begins its fourth year, we are delighted to see how much we have grown in such a short amount of time. The support of individuals and organizations in our community has been the catalyst for furthering the Alliance's mission: Improving the visibility of the LG-BTQIA community and facilitating communication and collaboration between groups and individuals. We are asking for your support in 2014.

Donors like you make it possible for the Alliance to organize, sponsor, and/or host events such as the Pride March/Rally, Candidate Forums, and the Pride Picnic. The Alliance also participates in various community events to promote awareness of LGBTQIA issues, and supports the efforts and activities of other groups dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQIA community.

To maximize the impact of your contribution and be included on the T-shirt and other promotional materials, please have donations in by Saturday, April 26th. Have checks payable to NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc., or include retail value of any non-monetary donations.

Please feel free to contact Michael Mahler at president@nwpapride.org or (814) 456-9833 if you need any additional info. Thank you very much for your consideration. Please see the NW PA Pride or Erie Gay News web site for full details.





# Erie Area Equality PA kickoff meeting

#### by Mike Mahler

On Thursday, March 13th, over 20 people gathered to learn more about PA HB 300/SB300. This proposed legislation would amend Pennsylvania's Human Relations Commission to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

The event was organized by Shanea Leonard, Western Regional Organizer for Equality PA.

In addition to concerned community members, several organizations were represented at the meeting—the Erie Gay News, Erie Sisters, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Marriage Equality for PA, NW PA Pride Alliance, PFLAG of Erie & Crawford Counties, and TransFamily of Erie. A special thanks is extended to Drenched Fur, Erie Gay News, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Marriage Equality for PA, NW PA Pride Alliance and PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties for providing refreshments.

Shanea also discussed the importance of being involved in this effort. Whether you can donate a lot of time or just a few hours, there are many ways to help raise awareness and support for this important legislation.

A social event will be planned to learn more about the legislation and how you can help. Please check back at the Erie Gay News web site for date/specifics.

To learn more or get involved, contact Kelly Kidd (Erie Area Team Leader) at erieequality@ gmail.com or Shanea Leonard (Western Regional Organizer) at sleonard@equalitypa.org or (464) 612-5815.





Laura Chandler, Tom Flynn Ricci, and Josh Szczesny.



Shanea Leonard, Diana Ames, and Kelly Kidd. Kelly is the Erie area representative.



Kathy Czarnecki-Smith, Daniel Thomas, Will Koehler

Photos: Top and bottom by Matthew Robison, middle by Deb Spilko

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar www.eriegaynews.com

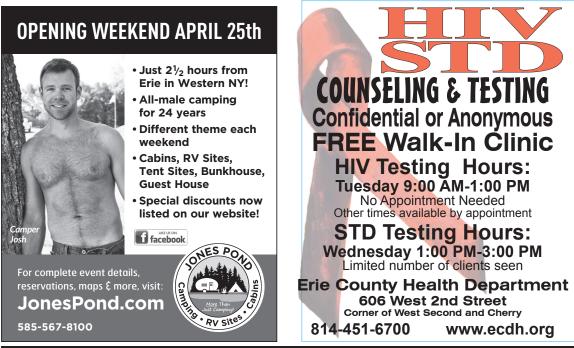
**Mar 26 (Wed) - Candlelight Vigil for Equality** (Erie Federal Courthouse, 17 South Park Row, Erie, PA) 7 PM - 8:15 PM. To commemorate the 1 year anniversary of the Oral Arguments before the US Supreme Court for DOMA and Prop 8, we hold this rally to show we have a long road to follow for equality in PA. me4pa2@gmail.com www.me4pa.org.

Mar 28 (Fri) - LBT Women of Erie go to Division II women's basketball championship game (Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Join Kim & Andrea. If you are planning on attending let me know and I can tell you where we are sitting. Contact: Kim. (814) 314-9512 ErieBeans@aol.com.

Mar 28 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Monthly Bear Bar Night. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327 info@ drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com. Mar 31 (Mon) - Southern Tier Trans Network lecture: Trans 101 and Why did they stick the T to the LGB's (James Prendergast Library, 509 Cherry St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:45 PM. The lecture commemorates the International Day of Transgender Visibility, an annual event designed to educate the communities trans people live in about the lives of transgender people and their contributions to our society. www.susans.org Contact: Helen Walther. Phone: (716) 720-1479. Venue Phone: (716) 484-7135. Browse to http://www.southerntiertrans.org. Browse to venue web site http://www.prendergastlibrary.org/.

Apr 2 (Wed) - LBT Women at Film at Erie Art Museum (7pm, doors open at 6pm, refreshments are available for purchase), \$5

Apr 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Andy's Pub and Crown Billiards, 3866 Peach St, Erie, PA) 6-8 PM. G2H2/Erie takes place every month in a new location around town, providing GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month.



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You can also sign up for the email list at http://lists. eriegaynews.com.

Apr 4 - Colors Unity "Rock -N-Bowl" 290 Seaward Ave, Bradford PA 10PM-midnight, \$13/person. RSVP and payment due by 4/1. Find on Facebook. colors.14760@gmail.com

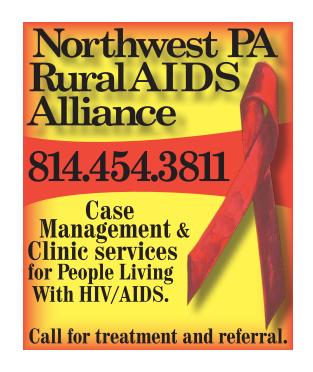
Apr 6 (Sun) - On Screen/In Person Series: "United in Anger: A History of Act-Up" (Mercyhurst University, Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA) 2 PM. Inspiring documentary about the birth and life of the AIDS activist movement from the perspective of the people in the trenches fighting the epidemic. Utilizing oral histories of members of ACT UP, as well as rare archival footage, the film depicts the efforts of ACT UP as it battles corporate greed, social indifference, and government neglect. The filmmaker will be present for a Q&A following the film. \$6 adults, \$5 students/seniors, \$4 PC holders, \$1 for Mercyhurst students (with ID) www.mercyhurst.edu/.

**Apr 6 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets** (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson St., Butler, PA)

5 PM. (724) 602-8447. president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com.

Apr 6 (Sun) - Rite of Offering by Whispering Lake Grove (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 5:30pm, ritual to begin 6:00pm. Whispering Lake Grove, A.D.F. exists as a chartered subsidiary, branch and/or division of Ar nDraioct Fein, A Druid Fellowship, Inc. Info: Rev. Carrion Mann at carrionmann@gmail.com or Rev. Christopher Temple at grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.whisperinglakegrove.org/.

Apr 7 (Mon) - Annual Take Back the Night March and Community Rally (Perry Square, Erie, PA) 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Free and open to the public as men and women of all ages come together as allies in order to take a stand against sexual violence. Gather and march, speakers and facts shared along the way before concluding the march inside Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom where survivors and others are invited to speak out and break the silence by sharing their stories. Apr 9 (Wed) - R U 1 Too? / an LGBTQ chat





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**group** (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water St., Suite 7, Jamestown, NY) 7PM. LGBTQ group for the Southern Tier. supported by Pride Center of WNY. Info: Steven (716) 661-9044. chautauquamha@gmail.com.

Apr 9 (Wed) - LBT Women do Film at Erie Art Museum (7pm, doors open at 6pm, refreshments are available for purchase), \$5

Apr 10 - 13 (Thu - Sun) - Drenched Fur 10 (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@ drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Apr 11 (Fri) - LBT Women at "Psycho Beach Party" at Penn State Behrend Studio Theater, \$7 (Call 814-898-6242 for reservations. It's an off Broadway satire of 1960s beach films.)

Apr 11-12 - LGBTQ Conference at PSU Behrend Panels and workshops are free and open to the public. Students, staff, faculty, alumnae and community members are warmly welcomed! No fee to register, send your name to psu.lgbtq@gmail.com" for nametag. For full schedule visit article on EGN homepage.

Apr 12 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls: Movie Track Extravaganza (Rockin' Ricks, 543 Spittler Lane, Limestone, NY) 10 PM. \$6 cover (702) 505-4771. www.myspace.com/rockinricks.

Apr 13 (Sun) – LBT Women of Erie meeting at the Brew Ha Ha Coffee Shop, Noon, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA (814) 833-2739; (*There may be a time change, so* 





find free testing learn about playing safe ask sexual health questions

*m4mHealthySex.org* knowledge is power

please check the website at https://www.facebook.com/ LBTWOMENOFERIE before the meeting.) - For info or to let us know you'll attending, contact Kim at ErieBeans@aol.com or (814) 314-9512.

Apr 13 (Sun) - 1st Annual Mr & Miss Gay Niagara County Pageant (Club Marcella, 622 Main St, Buffalo, NY) \$20 admissions includes a buffet at The Underground, after the pageant. (716) 846-6450. Email: clubmarcellapromo@gmail.com. www.clubmarcella.com/.

Apr 14 (Mon) - Novelist Chuck Wendig speaks on gender diversity at PSU Behrend 4 p.m. Rescheduled from previous date. Room 114 of the Reed Union Bldg. Info: Mara Taylor, lecturer in German/Woman Studies, at 814-898-6325 or email mut13@psu.edu.

Apr 14 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie,

7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. 7 to 8:30 PM. Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 367-3311. pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com.

Apr 14 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2014 print edition Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St,



Accomodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

USA/CANADA: \$25 by first class mail. All states and providences, national headquarters of organizations, mail order companies, etc. The whole book is now online in Acrobat Reader format. www.gayellowpages.com/online.htm Also available as a no frills CD in PDF format. Find us at Gay-Friendly stores like Body Lawgean, Clayalond OH 248-251.3330

Body Launguage, Cleveland, OH 216-251-3330 Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222 and many others at http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm

For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing lables, etc. please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263 or email gypages@gmail.com

### http://gayellowpages.com

Erie, PA. Issue released evening of Apr 22. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com

Apr 16 - Apr 16 - NW PA Pride 2014 Primary Candidate Forum (First Niagara Bank Community Room, 801 State St.,Erie, PA, enter on E. 8th Street side.) 7 PM. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: president@nwpapride.org . Browse to www.nwpapride.org.

Åpr 16 (Wed) - LBT Women at Film at Erie Art Museum (7pm, doors open at 6pm, refreshments are available for purchase), \$5

Apr 16 - GEAE Third Wed and Happy Hour event new location TBA

**Apr 19 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the 3rd Sunday of the month. (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 22 (Tue) - Erie Gay News Folding/Distribution Work Party (Mental Health Association of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) Help us get out the print edition of EGN. All ages welcome! (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 23 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner (Famous Dave's, 7165 Peach St, Erie, PA 16509) 7 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and fun! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. (814) 790-4205. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Apr 23 (Wed) - LBT Women at Film at Erie Art Museum (7pm, doors open at 6pm, refreshments are available for purchase), \$5

**Apr 24-26 - Comedian Thomas Dale at JRs Last Laugh Comedy Club and Resturant**, 1402 State, Erie, PA. From his website: "Standup comedian, writ-



er, and actor Thomas Dale is one of the fastest rising talents in the United States today. He's also a loveable, macho, gay Italian guido from Long Island who loves his mother. "(814) 461-0911 www.jrslastlaugh.com

**Apr 24 (Thu) - The Laramie Project** (Mercyhurst University, Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM The Mercyhurst Theatre Program Presents: www.mercyhurst.edu/.

Apr 25 (Fri) – LBT Women of Erie are going to Jr.'s Last Laugh at 9:30 PM to see comedian Thomas Dale (\$12.50 per person; food and drinks available for purchase). Call or stop by the to add your name to our table (under the name "Kim Conti"). Jr.'s Last Laugh: 1402 State Street, Erie PA 16501, 814-461-0911

Apr 25 - 27 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Opening Weekend - (9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Welcome to Season 24! (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Apr 26 - 28 (Sat - Mon) - Camp Davis Opening Weekend (311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdaviscampground. com.

Apr 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Refreshments, free parking is available in a lot to the south of MHA. Please bring a snack to share. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969.

**Apr 26 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 7 PM. (440) 265-8191

Apr 29 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson Street, Butler, PA) 1 PM www.facebook.com/ ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.

May 12 - Art for Change Benefit for Persad Wyndham Grand in Downtown Pittsburgh https:// persadcenter.org/

# PLEASE RECYCLE US!



### **Online Contests**

Here are new contests for this month...

Contract	Destine	
Contest	Begins	
Best Gay Romance 2014	March 28	
Les Miserables Live! Dream The Dream; Campaign of Hate: Russia	April 1	
Best Gay Erotica 2014	April 4	
Foolish Hearts: New Gay Fiction	April 8	
Christ-Centered Conscious- ness, by John Ryan	April 11	
Queens of the Apocalypse, signed by Rob Rosen	April 15	
<i>Stephen King Films EAQ</i> by Scott Von Doviak from Applause Books	April 18	
<i>The Line</i> (Signed Copy) by J. D. Horn	April 22	
Here are contests which are currently active.		
Contest	Ends	
Hi Fashion You Are Gor- geous EP	March 28	
	March 28 April 1	
geous EP		
geous EP Geography Club Matt Zarley Somebody 4	April 1	
geous EP Geography Club Matt Zarley Somebody 4 Everybody The Happy Sad; Symphonica	April 1 April 4	

More contests at eriegaynews.com! Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events email list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events! Over 1,000 people have won a prize!

