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ERIE READER

— Legendary Filmmaker Brings —

"This Filthy World"

— to Edinboro —



John Waters spills on the Erie Canal, fax machines, anger, death, hitchhiking, Kardashians, and North Korea

Mishol Randolph, **What Madam Ruby Sees: Local Elections**, Corbett's Polling Numbers, **Sinnott Uncontested**, Buffalo Punk Explosion! and "Pure Doctor," **"Sense and Sensibility,"** reviewed, The Grand Opening of The Bearded Lady, **Introducing: LGBT Voices and the Reader Eater**, Music, Fashion, and Tech

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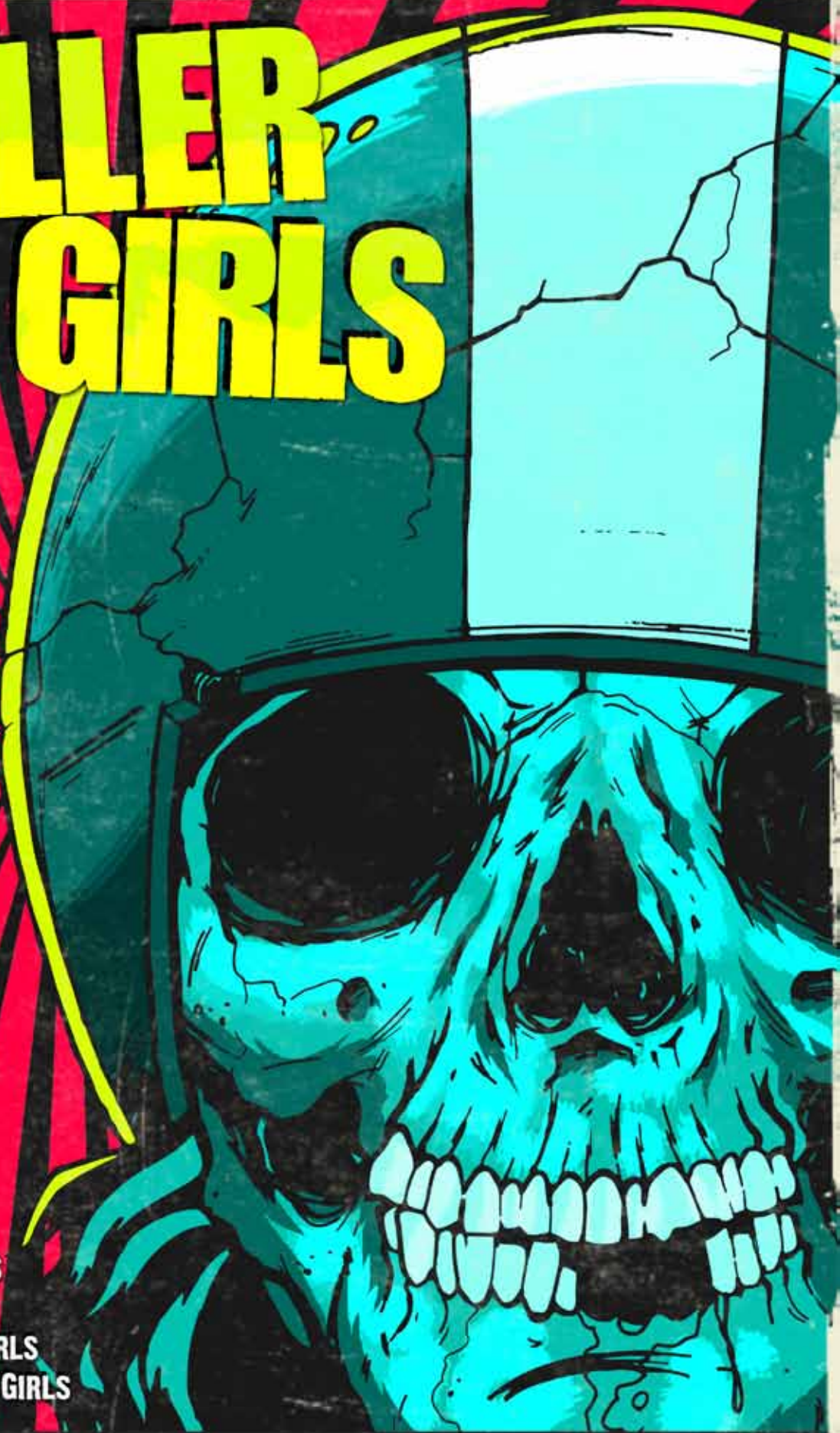
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March 20, 2013

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Mishol Randolph

From the Editors

The pencil moustache. The slicked-back hair. The voice. The laugh. The man who changed the course of independent film forever.

This, if you can't tell by our cover, refers to the one and only John Waters. Whether you know him from the indelible mark he has forever left on American cinema, or for the fact that he has been a lightning rod for controversy his entire career, odds are you've heard of him. Now, hear from him.

If you're a lover of movies -- like most of us here at the Reader -- or don't really care much about them -- like contributing editor Cory Vaillancourt, who sees five or less films per year -- you should be aware of the cultural significance of this man, and revel in the fact that he's coming here, to our own back yard, to provoke and enlighten.

And while it's typical to see a writer plot out questions days -- if not weeks -- in advance to prepare for such an interview with such a celebrity with quick wit, Cory --

matching wit for wit -- approached his time with Waters more as a conversation and less a strict, structured question-then-answer format. What resulted was a flowing dialogue with one of America's most influential filmmakers and icons who shares his thoughts on everything from North Korea to the Kardashians in a candid discussion that you'll only find here.

Since we like to afford writers room for their stories to breathe, things don't always turn out as we'd expect them. From the inception through the assignment, drafting, and revision process, we have a generally good idea of how a story will unfold. But sometimes what develops catches even us by surprise.

This happened with the You Ought to Know if this issue written by Matthew Flowers. But let's start at the beginning.

Not too long ago we got a tip from an esteemed local businesswoman that we should get in touch with Mary Graziano, director of Dress for Success Erie, to hear about the big news she had just received earlier that day. This would be a great story idea we were told. Connections were

promptly made and it was only a matter of hours before we received a Facebook message from Mary. She wrote excitedly about how DFSE would be headed to New York City. After receiving nominations from DFS affiliates throughout the United States, DFS Worldwide had chosen Erie's own Mishol Randolph to represent all DFS women at its star-studded Gala on April 11.

At the event, Mishol will speak to over a thousand people, have her makeup done by Bobbi Brown's team, be fitted for a David Meister dress -- all things befitting a woman deserving of such honor.

But that's not the true beginning. Before becoming an example of success, Mishol went through hell. It's easy for someone to claim they've been to hell and back -- think of the many songs and other pop-culture references that just came to mind. And it's even easier for a writer to paint someone's story a little darker than it truly is for dramatic effect.

But Flowers doesn't do that. Instead, he sat with a woman who told him what it was like to be addicted to drugs, get caught selling drugs, be confined to "the hole" in prison, and worse.

What makes Mishol's story so remarkable isn't the hardships she's faced -- it's a harsh reality, but she's certainly not alone when it comes to the hell she's been through -- but the fact that she endured it all in a way that would have crushed most people. This is exactly why You Ought to Know her, as she should serve as inspiration to all of us as she's become someone we can all be proud of to represent our city.

From funny and insightful interviews to stories that push a 50-pound anvil on our chest and refuse to let up, you'll find all that in this issue -- as well as two new columns.

First, we introduce "LGBT Voices" with Rich McCarty -- a column we hope helps spread the message of equality for which we all strive. And second, we offer you something that can be summed up in three words, four letters, a whole new column: "The Reader Eater," where our critic will be weighing in on Erie's local eats and all they have to offer, starting with The Summer House Cafe.

Food. Film. Culture. Entertainment. Politics. Music. Tech. All here for your reading pleasure, so sit back and enjoy this issue. And meet us down in Edinboro April 4.

By: Cory Vaillancourt

Remember the part in the 1985 Tim Burton flick "Pee Wee's Big Adventure" when he goes to visit the psychic and she reveals to him the purported location of his stolen bicycle by gazing into her crystal ball? Madam Ruby was her name, and I went to visit her last week.

You see, the 2013 municipal primaries are upon us again, and some folks have made what I think are some truly delusional decisions, so I asked Madam Ruby to cut through the cloudy clutter and favor me with her profound insights on the races – and racers. That's right, out of all the things I could have asked her about – the meaning of life, the future of humanity, next week's winning lottery numbers – I asked about local elections. I'm trusting her to accurately convey the results of those local elections – despite the fact that she sent Pee Wee Herman on a fool's errand – because I gave her all the money I had

Austin, Andre Horton, David Pamula, and Renee Vendetti, as well as Republican Ned Smith, who apparently didn't get the memo titled, "Erie County Council's 2nd District went 75 percent to 25 percent for President Barack Obama in 2012 and also the Alamo does not have a basement."

What Madam Ruby sees: Giles will be told by voters to hit the showers. Again.

Erie Mayor: Apparently Joe Sinnott has done such a good job of mayoring that not one single Democrat or Republican filed to run against him; he'll serve his third term

beginning in 2014. I'm not really sure what this means; either he's loved, feared, or such a political wallflower that people are willing to put up with four more years of really crappy Celebrate Erie headliners chosen by his out-of-touch crap rock-loving minions. But let's be real here – if the quality of the entertainment at a free city festival is the worst thing one can say about Sinnott's tenure, he's doing a damn fine job; he's held the line on taxes and confidently piloted what was once a rusty old push-bike but is now a...well, it's still a rusty old push-bike – but at least it's got some air in the tires, which would explain why he's coasting.

What Madam Ruby sees: Sinnott popping a wheelie!

The two Barrys: Kathy Dahlkemper's decision to challenge incumbent – and fellow Democrat – Barry Grossman for Erie County Executive has raised eyebrows ever since we broke the story way back on Feb. 25; during her formal announcement, she invoked the name of Barry Obama so many times that I'm wondering if this race will actually be Barry vs. Barry. I'm also wondering who in Dahlkemper's camp thinks that's wise, because in this county, at this time, Grossman defeats Obama. Despite having a first term pockmarked with potholes (like the community college and the Hassam debate), Grossman has – much like Sinnott – kept taxes in line with reasonable expectations and done a fine, if not damn fine, job. But unlike Sinnott, Grossman's success apparently has not been enough to ward off a pack of Republican challengers, including Tom Loftus, Don Tucci, and Thomas McGahen – all of whom will have to hold their questions about the Alamo's basement until the end of the tour.

What Madam Ruby sees: Grossman squeaks through the primary and general elections.

Ed and Shoulders: Nobody would really care about the County Council's 6th District race if not for the fact that the previous occupant of



Everyone knows the Alamo has no basement, right?

the seat, Ebert Beeman, now occupies a jail cell. Beeman – an anti-government Republican loon – disgraced himself, his party, the county, and the council when he was sent to jail for being a prick who refused to pay his taxes, among other things; furthermore, he then had the hubris to oppose his removal from the County Council. Eventually, Edward DiMattio, Jr. was appointed to the seat to finish out Beeman's term; he's running for re-election and will be opposed by fellow Republican Trish Shoulders.

What Madam Ruby sees: Ebert Beeman, still in jail, in the basement of the Alamo.

Free-for-all: The Erie City Council race is so crowded it looks like the San Antonio Greyhound station; seats occupied by Dave Brennan, John Evans, Curtis Jones, Jr., and Jim Winarski are up for re-election this year. All four men are seeking to retain their seats and all four men – especially Brennan and Jones, Jr. – make a strong case. Evans – the only Republican – appears to be the weakest because he was appointed and not elected, however being the only Republican candidate in the race may earn him enough votes to return. Challenging them in this melee are Julia Calipol, Selena King, and current City Controller Casimir Kwitowski.

What Madam Ruby sees: Brennan, Jones, Evans, and someone with a "K" sound in their last name.

Madam Ruby has spoken; now, off! Off, you politicians on your strange and fantastic adventure! For some of you will indeed be pointed at by snickering children in the courtyard of the Alamo, but some of you will, after all, find your proverbial bike and end up with a movie being made about your life starring James Brolin and Morgan Fairchild.

Cory Vaillancourt is a brilliant writer/complete back and can be complimented/beckled at cvaillancourt@ErieReader.com. Find him on Twitter @VLNCRT.

By: Chuck Shepherd

Doping on Ice

Leaders of the ice-fishing community, aiming for official Olympics recognition as a sport, have begun the process by asking the World Anti-Doping Agency to randomly test its "athletes" for performance-enhancing drugs, according to a February New York Times report. However, said the chairman of the U.S. Freshwater Fishing Association, "We do not test for beer," because, he added, "Everyone would fail." Ice-fishing is a lonely, frigid endeavor rarely employing strength but mostly requiring guile and strategy, as competitors who discover advantageous spots in the lake must surreptitiously upload the hauls lest competitors rush over to drill their own holes. Urine tests have also been run in recent years on competitors in darts, miniature golf, chess and tug-of-war, and in 2011, one chess player, two minigolfers and one tigger tested positive. [New York Times, 2-24-2013]

Cultural Diversity

A frequent sight on Soweto, South Africa, streets recently is crowds of 12-to-15-year-old boys known as "izikhotane" ("boasters") who hang out in their designer jeans, "shimmering silk shirts, bright pink and blue shoes, and white-straw, narrow-brimmed fedoras," according to a February BBC News dispatch. Flashing wads of cash begged from beleaguered parents, hundreds may amass, playing loud music and sometimes even trashing their fancy clothes as if to feign an indifference to wealth. Since many izikhotanes' families are working-class survivors of apartheid, they are mostly ashamed of their kids' behavior. "This isn't what we struggled for," lamented one parent. But, protested a peer-pressured boaster, "(Y)ou must dress like this, even if you live in a shack." [BBC News, 2-1-2013]

India's annual "Rural Olympics" might be the cultural equivalent of several Southern U.S. "Redneck Olympics" but taken somewhat more seriously, in that this year, corporate sponsorships (Nokia and Suzuki) helped fund the equivalent of about \$66,000 in prize money for such events as competitive pulling using only one's ears or teeth. "We do this for money, trophies, fame and respect," one ear-puller told The Wall Street Journal in February. This year, in the four-day event in Punjab state, the 50,000 spectators could watch a teeth-lifter pull a 110-pound sack upward for about eight seconds and an ear-puller ease a car about 15 feet.

Weird Japan: (1) A generous local businessman recently graced the city of Okuizumo with funding for replicas of two Renaissance statues ("Venus de Milo" and Michelangelo's "David") for a public park. Agence France-Presse reported in February that many residents, re-

Out of all the things I could have asked her about – the meaning of life, the future of humanity, next week's winning lottery numbers – I asked about local elections.

in my wallet. Like Pee Wee did.

Whitey Power: Two-term incumbent County Councilman Ronald "Whitey" Cleaver is seeking his third term representing the 4th District; he's opposed by fellow Democrat Jay Breneman. Breneman has youth, talent, and intelligence on his side; he also has a snowball's chance in hell of winning this race. Unfortunately, elections aren't always won by the candidate who is best qualified – they are won by people who do the best job of campaigning, and considering Cleaver's incumbency, Breneman's going to have a hard time changing the minds of people who already willingly vote for someone named "Whitey." But I do hope Breneman eventually finds his bike.

What Madam Ruby sees: Cleaver in a white-wash.

Go, Joe: Democrat Joe Giles has served on Erie County Council for more than 60 years [citation needed]; aside from taking steamy private after-hours showers in the women's locker room of the Erie County Sheriff's office and engaging in shady middle-of-the-night cruising with a convicted vandal less than one-third his age, I can't recall anything he's done in those 60 years that should allow him to keep his job. Several people agree with me on this – namely Democrats Lisa

Street Corner SOAPBOX

By: Jay Stevens

Corbett's Poll

Have you seen Gov. Tom Corbett's poll numbers?

In January, Public Policy Polling (PPP) found that 38 percent of Pennsylvanians approved of his job performance. A whopping 52 percent disapproved. The rest were undecided.

And while the January poll showed him leading every match-up against potential Democratic contenders, he never exceeded 42 percent against any of them – including Democrats like Rob McCord or John Hanger, who topped 70 percent in “not sure” in the favorability poll.

The March PPP numbers were worse. In the later poll, only 33 percent approved of the governor's work, and 58 percent disapproved. And in this poll, he peaks at 34 percent in one-on-one

Not only do Democrats need to earn name recognition in order to win, they likely have to endure a lengthy, bitter, and expensive primary to earn the right to challenge the sitting governor.

matchups against Democrats, and loses all of them – including the match-ups against largely unknown candidates.

A recent Quinnipiac poll is better for Corbett, but not by much: only 35 percent of Pennsylvania voters thought that he deserved to be reelected.

But...what does this mean?

For starters, it looks like Pennsylvanians would rather vote for some candidate pulled off the street than for Gov. Corbett.

But then it's a long way off until Pennsylvania's gubernatorial election in November 2014. That gives Gov. Corbett time to salvage his reputation and woo voters. Numbers this far out from the election rarely match the numbers on Election Day, especially before months of campaigning.

On the other hand, these are really troubling numbers for Corbett. It is difficult to recover from disapproval numbers above 50 percent. That means he has to win over voters who actively *dislike* the work he's done in order to win re-election. It's possible, but might mean a major policy change in Harrisburg.

Of course, the numbers will look different once there's a clear opponent in the race. Right now, the Democratic names rumored to be in the race are largely unfamiliar to voters state-wide. There's Ed Pawlowski, mayor of Allentown. Congresswoman Allison Schwartz. Mike Stack, a state senator. Former Revenue Secretary Tom Wolf. Businessman Tom Knox. The State Treasurer, Rob McCord. The former Department of Environmental Affairs Secretary, John Hanger.

The best-known name in the possible Democratic field is Joe Sestak, who's famous for losing to Pat Toomey in the 2010 Senate race.

Not only do Democrats need to earn name recognition in order to win, they likely have to endure a lengthy, bitter, and expensive primary to earn the right to challenge the sitting governor.

It's a long way to November 2014, and there are innumerable hurdles for the Democrats to cross to unseat Corbett. But the biggest weapon the Democrats have in the race may be Corbett himself. Relentlessly ideological, Corbett has trashed the public school system, rigged the tax and regulatory system to favor big business, and engaged in privatization schemes by trying to sell off the state lottery – all done with the flair of a school-yard bully.

He's his own worst enemy, but doesn't seem to care.

Jay Stevens can be contacted at Jay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Snevets_Yaj.

ceiving little advance warning, expressed shock at the unveiling of "David" and demanded that he at least be given underpants. (2) Fax machines, almost obsolete in the U.S., are still central to many tech-savvy Japanese families and companies (who bought 1.7 million units last year alone), reported The New York Times in February. Families prefer faxes' superiority to e-mail for warmly expressing Japan's complex written language, and bureaucrats favor faxes' preserving the imperative of paper flow.

Latest Religious Messages

The 14 guests at a jewelry party in Lake City, Fla., were initially incredulous that home-invader Derek Lee, 24, meant to rob them, but when they saw that he was serious (by putting his gun to the head of one woman), the hostess went into action. "In the name of Jesus," she shouted, "get out of my house now!" Then the guests chanted in unison, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" over and over. Lee, frightened or bewildered, sprinted out the door empty-handed and was later arrested.

The president of the National Black Church Initiative told the Associated Press in January that its pastors are generally free to ordain new pastors as they wish, and that consequently Bishop Wayne Jackson of Detroit did nothing wrong in his ordination ceremony (which was surreptitiously video-recorded and uploaded to YouTube), even though it consisted of Jackson in robes, praying while lying on top of the new bishops, who were also praying. (The AP noted that Bishop Jackson had been the target of that'so-gay YouTube comments.)

Yet Another Fatwa: Saudi cleric Sheikh Abdullah Daoud, in an interview in February on al-Majd TV, decreed that female babies should wear full-face veils (burkas) to help shield them from sexual advances. (According to a former judge at the Saudi Board of Grievances, Saudi authorities have issued standards for fatwas, thus urging people to ignore "unregulated" ones such as Skeikh Daoud's.)

In January, Lhokseumawe City, Indonesia, drafted new ordinances, including one that prohibits women from riding motorcycles with their legs straddling male drivers, since that would tend to "provoke" them. A proponent said the ban "honor(ed)" women "because they are delicate creatures." Immediately, some authorities denounced the legislation, pointing out that riding "side saddle" is much more dangerous in cases of sudden swerves and collisions. As of press time, the mayor had not decided whether to implement the ordinance.

Questionable Judgments

In February, an off-duty Tampa police officer and an off-duty sheriff's detective from nearby Hernando County were awarded the sheriff's office's highest honor, the Medal of Valor, for exemplary bravery in an October incident in which a 42-year-old naked woman was shot to death by the officers. The woman was holding a gun and had made threats, and a 5-year-old boy was inside a truck that she wanted to steal. However, even though a neighbor had simply wrestled the woman down earlier, the officers still thought their only move was to shoot to kill. Said the woman's brother, "They shot a mentally disturbed, naked woman. Is that valor?"

Her happiness is in the bag.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Sinnott Uncontested, New Deputy Warden

By: Rebecca Styn

Sinnott Uncontested

I love democracy.

At times I have complained about how our democracy doesn't always operate justly, but on occasion, I find that silver lining in the way some of our government functions, and that's when I take a small moment to rejoice and reclaim my love for our system.

This most recent small moment falls in accordance with the fact that this year Erie Mayor Joseph Sinnott will run unopposed.

What prompts me to have this moment is two-fold: my own perspective on the subject, and seeing the United States' largest grass-roots efforts working in accordance with the system – term limits.

Recently, the top headline on the front page of Erie's daily paper read, "Sinnott Gets Free Ride."

Yes, this is true. Lucky for him, he will go unchallenged. For some of you, this may come as a disappointment, that no one was willing to step up and contest him – that would truly be democracy in action.

But we can look at this two ways: we can be disappointed in the fact that there's no real challenger – nobody to fight the good fight, putting democracy into action – and talk about the fact that there will be no new face in that office. Or, we can shift our perspective.

We now have a mayor that doesn't have to campaign, that has no need to be taking personal donations from you and utilizing your hard-earned money for him to conduct his politicking. We also have a mayor that can focus totally on the efforts of the "greater good" and put all his time and energy helping our city grow and prosper – which he's been doing to a degree all along – but this time he can do it without losing

valuable time with the routine of shaking hands and kissing babies.

We also have a mayor that can't run again, no matter how much he may want to stay in office. I'm not rushing Sinnott out, but I am a huge proponent of term limits – for better or worse – and our city seems to agree with me on this.

I understand at times, term limits can force talented and popular leaders out of office, only to be replaced by inexperienced politicians. However, overall, term limits drive out career politicians, help to increase competition, encourage citizens to begin voting on principle – not person, help voters hear about new and fresh ideas, encourage new challengers to step up, create greater voter participation in elections, and downgrade seniority in favor of meritocracy.

I know at times, term limits can force talented and popular leaders out of office, only to be replaced by inexperienced politicians. However, overall, term limits drive out career politicians, help to increase competition, encourage citizens to begin voting on principle – not person, help voters hear about new and fresh ideas, encourage new challengers to step up, create greater voter participation in elections, and downgrade seniority in favor of meritocracy.

In short, term limits do a lot. To put this in perspective, at the state level, re-election rates are upwards of 90 percent in the House of Representatives office – a body that boasts no term limits. I cannot imagine 90 percent of those incumbents deserve to still be in office. The issues we have today – those that splash across the television screen and newspapers daily – tell me this in a nutshell.

I know we all have our own opinions – and I welcome yours – however, I believe our mayor will take advantage of this time in a way he may have not been afforded before. I look forward to seeing him in action during his final term in office. He's in one of the most ideal places an elected official can be – working for the city and our communities, without operating under the immense weight of running for re-election.

Four years from now (well, probably three), fresh faces can step up and throw their political hats into the mayoral ring. Hopefully, a couple of you will participate – especially since there will be no incumbent that will have an automatic advantage, making it a fair fight from the start.

(Classroom) Education is (not always) Key

This past week County Executive Barry Grossman hired Kevin Sutter to take over as deputy warden of the Erie County Prison. He is expected to take over for Prison Warden James Veshecco when he retires later this year.

Under county hiring rules, this appointment requires a four-year college degree.

Sutter doesn't have one.

Because of this, a personnel code waiver – which would waive the county hiring requirement that deputy prison wardens hold at least a four-year college degree – was introduced to county council to serve as a caveat to hire Sutton. However, it turns out the waiver was not needed. Therefore, Sutter is expected to start Monday, March 18, no degree required.

I am an ardent proponent of continuing education. Personally, I am still furthering my own education. But sometimes I think education can be more fruitful when it's not in a classroom setting and that formalized training is not always relevant or necessary to have a good career. Oftentimes in life, direct, hands-on experiences make a greater educational impact for us.

I think most of us can attest to the fact that many of our undergraduate educations have had at times little impact on where we are today [read: my bachelor's degree was in music]. And many of us don't always have the means to pursue a higher education [read: the continual fight for a local community college], so, I applaud Grossman for taking all things into account and not completely dismissing Sutter based on his lack of college credentialing.

After all, I know many brilliant people who never went to college.

And most are making more money than I will ever see in my lifetime. ■

Love? Hate? Agree? Disagree? I want to hear from you. Email me at rStyn@ErieReader.com, and follow me on Twitter @rStyn.

TECH WATCH

The Return of the Digi-Pet

By: Brennan Donnelly, Epic WebStudios

Have you been coping with an emotional void ever since your Tamagotchi died in 1999?

Good news: the ever-popular digi-pet is back – in the form of an Android app! And iOS users, fear not – the iPhone app is currently under development, and you too will soon have the opportunity to care for your very own digital pocket pet.

For those who read the paragraph above and are clueless as to what I am referring, let me bring you up to speed on the excellence that is a Tamagotchi.

The year was 1996 and Akihiro Yokoi of WiZ and Aki Maita of Bandai were hard at work in Japan getting ready to release one of the biggest 1990s crazes – a handheld digital pet. The Tamagotchi was an egg-shaped computer keychain with an interface of three buttons that served a variety of purposes to care for the digital pet growing and thriving inside the tiny plastic microcomputer. The early models featured a black and white pixelated screen and an internal speaker to produce beeping, serving for both communication and alerts.

Still confused? Here's more back story: A Tamagotchi is a small alien species that was deposited on Earth as an egg to see what life was like here on this planet. It was then up to the keychain owner to raise the egg into an adult creature. The alien would develop differently through its growth stages depending on how the user cared for it.

If well taken care of, the tiny computerized alien would be happy, healthy, and require little care once it reaches adulthood. If not, well, a mischievous, unhealthy, attention-seeking alien would begin wreaking havoc.

If you recall, the original device caused controversy in many elementary, middle, and high schools due to

the fact that if left unattended for six hours or more, a Tamagotchi would die. This posed a problem because the average school day is, well, longer than six hours – meaning, if a student was unable to get to their digi-pet at lunch, recess, study hall, etc., they would have to start over the next day after having lost their friend.

Clearly these original tenders to the Tamagotchi alien race did not want to abandon their pets, such negligence resulting in an inability to explore our planet and an untimely death. So they did what any good-hearted person would do: they would oftentimes try to secretly attend to them during class time. But this caused disruption, and eventually led to many schools banning the devices completely.

Creators, er, inventors of the Tamagotchi responded by producing later versions of the device with a "pause" feature, allowing owners to temporarily suspend the tending to of their pet before resuming their caregiving when they got home, with no harm done to their beloved digi-creature; thus the tending to the alien race continued for years to come.

In fact, egg-shaped models are still in production today, but with the increased shift to smart phones, users can ditch the keychain version for the app, allowing for all the same fun without the added bulk in pocket content.

Tamagotchi L.i.f.e – which stands for "Love Is Fun Everywhere" – is the name of the newly released Android app and is available at the low, low price of: FREE! Or \$0.99 if you would like to forego ads. The emulator perfectly resembles the layout of the original (visible plastic housing and all), with an optional interface available to view full-screen.

The app has a rating at 3.7/5.0 stars based on nearly 2,700 reviews, thus far. The Google Play store reports that the app has been installed between five-hundred thousand and a million times. Demographic analytics show that this blast-from-the-past app has been a huge hit among twenty-somethings.

Strangely, I personally don't recall ever owning a Tamagotchi, which is making me wonder if I was some kind of an outcast and a loser in the late 1990s, deemed unfit to tend to the futuristic race of alien visitors. I also admit that I have not had the opportunity to download this app to redeem my lacking childhood because I am an iOS user. Though recalling memories of the original gadget and speaking with others my age brought me a sense of pleasure to recall memories of when caring for a digi-pet was the most of a child's worries, and potentially the most of a twenty-somethings' worries once again. ■

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JUST TOYIN' WITCHA By: B. Toy



LGBT Voices

Understanding and Embracing the Difficulties that Unite Us All

By: Rich McCarty

Erie is home to many histories, diverse people groups, destination points, and unique organizations. Of the many people that make our north-coast city a place of diversity and interest is the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community. In many recognizable ways, we who belong to the LGBT community are just like our straight/heterosexual neighbors. Life's joys and hopes are ours, inasmuch as life's common frustrations and difficulties are shared as well. Whether that means the simple fun of enjoying local Erie events, like Eight Great Tuesdays, cheering on the Erie SeaWolves, or enjoying our favorite pub or restaurant, we LGBT people are living and loving life in ways that resonate with a majority of people here in Erie.

So too, we LGBT people face life's common inconveniences: like digging our cars out from Erie's infamous snow storms, or crunching numbers to pay monthly bills. To that end, while some may think of gay or lesbian people as fearsomely (or fabulously) "queer," much of LGBT life is rather ordinary, because at the end of the day we share a common status as human beings.

At the same time, LGBT folk are not simply "the same as everyone else." There are differences. But those differences are a contribution to human diversity.

One part of that has to do with recognizing our given sexual orientations or gender identities. For LGBT people, self-identity and self-respect are uniquely forged. In particular, our sense of self is distinctively shaped by having an innate affectional and sexual attraction to members of the same sex — or because one's gender identity does not conform to one's physical sex.

These basic differences help us to see the world in ways that straight folk might not. We have traditions, celebrations, and self-concepts that reflect our history of not always being accepted, but which honor the ways that we have learned to live without fear and to love one another.

Without question, in a world that largely anticipates people to be heterosexual, or gender conforming, we LGBT people must cultivate a well-tested form of confidence and love. Sometimes we refer to this as "gay pride." This pride — this deeper love

— allows us to name our innate differences and to do so even though we know that sometimes people will associate our "coming out" as an admission of sickness, perversion, or an immoral "choice."

Having to anticipate that people may not accept us because we are LGBT can be daunting. But we live with the hope of full-equality (and acceptance!) because we know first-hand why friendship, love, individual-liberty, meaningful work, a place to call home, social justice, and the network of family are each invaluable, not just to

In *all* ways, then, LGBT issues are human issues — and as human issues they are Erie issues. The inauguration of this "LGBT Voices" column will provide a space where LGBT and straight people alike can find out just some of the ways in which LGBT-life is Erie-life (and Erie-life is LGBT-life).



The rainbow flag, or gay pride flag, has been used since the 1970s to represent the diversity of the LGBT community.

LGBT people, but to all human beings.

In *all* ways, then, LGBT issues are human issues — and as human issues they are Erie issues. The inauguration of this "LGBT Voices" column will provide a space where LGBT and straight people alike can find out just some of the ways in which LGBT-life is Erie-life (and Erie-life is LGBT-life). But we'll also look at other ways in which LGBT-life faces unique challenges and offers unique opportunities for happiness.

We'll explore definitions of what it means to be "L, G, B, or T" (as well as other sexual and gender identities not represented by those four letters).

We'll also explore what's happening in Erie LGBT life that might be of interest to any number of people (straight or LGBT). We'll tackle some of the "issues" that the LGBT community faces (like legal rights, religious concerns, or matters of public accommodation). We'll also take a look at the incredible history of the LGBT community in Erie, as well as the many people and organizations that embody the different segments of the LGBT community as it exists now.

The goal? To learn about our similarities, our differences, and how understanding these will help all of us to cultivate respect for our Erie neighbors, not in spite of our sexual orientations or gender identities, but because of them.

"LGBT Voices" will be a space, then, where we can discover that in Erie — straight and LGBT — people are already present in one another's lives: in our schools, our neighborhoods, our communities of faith, and side-by-side in our many Erie celebrations. To that end, this column will be a place where LGBT and straight people might better appreciate that differences of sexual and gender identity are a contribution to Erie's diversities—not a detraction from our life together, but a gift.

Rich McCarty holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies, specializing in sexual ethics. McCarty works in Erie as a professor, serves the community as an ordained minister, and proudly identifies as a member of the LGBT community. You can contact him at rMcCarty@ErieReader.com.



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THE READER EATER

Our Mystery Food Critic Pays a Visit to The Summer House Cafe

Sometimes the best restaurant experiences can be found in seemingly staple and familiar environments. While I consider myself to be a bit of a foodie in the sense that I love flavor, quality, and anything new to taste, I've also always been a sucker for diners, especially when I have a craving for breakfast food anytime after 9 a.m. Diners, while all a little different in appearance, manage to still have that same menu, that same half-burnt coffee, and those same sticky placemats.

I foolishly order a double-stack of the richest, creamiest pancakes I've ever had in a diner, along with a side of bacon. *Who doesn't like a little salty with their sweet after all?*

All except the Summer House Café. While The Summer House Café, like many other diners, also offers a lunch menu, and a dinner menu Thursdays through Saturdays, I

typically visit this establishment for a variety of breakfast delights. On a late Sunday morning – much like the one upon which my guests and I set off in search of some quality diner-breakfast eats – one can expect to find the place packed and the waitresses shifting about in expected form and chatty and hungry mouths of no particular demographic comfortably occupying all of the art-filled nooks and crannies of this uniquely bohemian diner.

Now, like I said, I'm a sucker for diners because of a few familiar staples that even from which the Summer House is not set apart. One such staple is the bottomless cup of diner coffee that's not particularly strong, nor flavorful, but always there with a waitress successful at keeping it warmed up.

Another diner quality that The Summer House possesses is a fast and predictable pace. Sometimes it can be a little too fast for how relaxed the rest of the restaurant setting is. However, as it becomes evident that my table is in the exact opposite of a rush, our waitress eventually, and graciously, adapts to our pace.

So what's not so familiar about this dining experience? Looking at the menu, one will find multiple omelet options with numerous fillings, "2 eggs and meat" combos, as well as classically sweet breakfast treats, such as waffles and French toast, which all seem pretty standard and expected. But then after further exploration, dishes like "Eggs ala Dante," "Grilled Roma Tomatoes,"

and "Eggs Florentine" start to make their presence known, distinguishing Summer House from the crowd of greasy spoons.

At this point, I'm going to pause and recommend a dish for which I frequently return to The Summer House. If anyone out there likes sausage gravy, then the "Heavenly Biscuits" are for you. This dish – consisting of flakey, slightly sweet biscuits covered in a rich homemade creamy sausage gravy – sets The Summer House apart from most other diners I know.

But back to our Sunday morning breakfast. My table starts out with the "Breakfast Breads Basket," containing an assortment of fresh homemade biscuits and muffins. While the biscuits were deliciously fresh – despite the butter having been served frozen – I would not recommend ordering this starter unless you're simply meeting a friend for coffee and need a little something to pick at while you chat. After all, who wants to fill up on bread – no matter how good – before a meal? While the rest of my table proceeded to order classic eggs and omelets, I went for another menu item that I specifically seek out from The Summer House: sour cream pancakes.

It's considered a win for a restaurant when there is a particular dish for which customers return because they just can't get it anywhere else. For me, that can be found in Summer House's pancake.

I foolishly order a double-stack of the richest, creamiest pancakes I've ever had in a diner, along with a side of bacon. *Who doesn't like a little salty with their sweet after all?* Summer House offers a long list of toppings that can be added to your stack for an upcharge, but to be honest, they are perfect with the powdered sugar and the slice of strawberry with which they already come.



Buttermilk pancakes from the Summerhouse Cafe: rich, creamy, and smooth.

To put it as politely as possible, many diner pancakes often tend to be a bit "gritty," but this stack is thick, golden-brown, and not only grit-free, but creamy and smooth in each bite. Two pancakes are too much this particular morning, but delicious all the same.

While the rest of my table is satisfied with their classically egg-y diner dishes, particularly the fresh veggie fillings in the omelets, it's evident that the Summer House's strengths can be found in the dishes that make it unique. Sour cream pancakes, and biscuits with sausage gravy are total spotlight stealers that manage to break the diner menu mold.

While a cup of coffee along with two eggs, meat, and potatoes always sounds appealing, a patron of this diner will walk away with a more memorable meal if he or she opts for something more robust than a simple plate of eggs from this menu – something that he or she may just start coming back for again and again.

You can contact *The Reader Eater* at ReaderEater@ErieReader.com.



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Legendary Filmmaker Brings "This Filthy World" to Edinboro

John Waters talks the Erie Canal, fax machines, anger, death, hitchhiking, Kardashians, and North Korea

By: Cory Vaillancourt

So the guy who doesn't watch more than five movies a year just got to interview one of the most important filmmakers of our time.

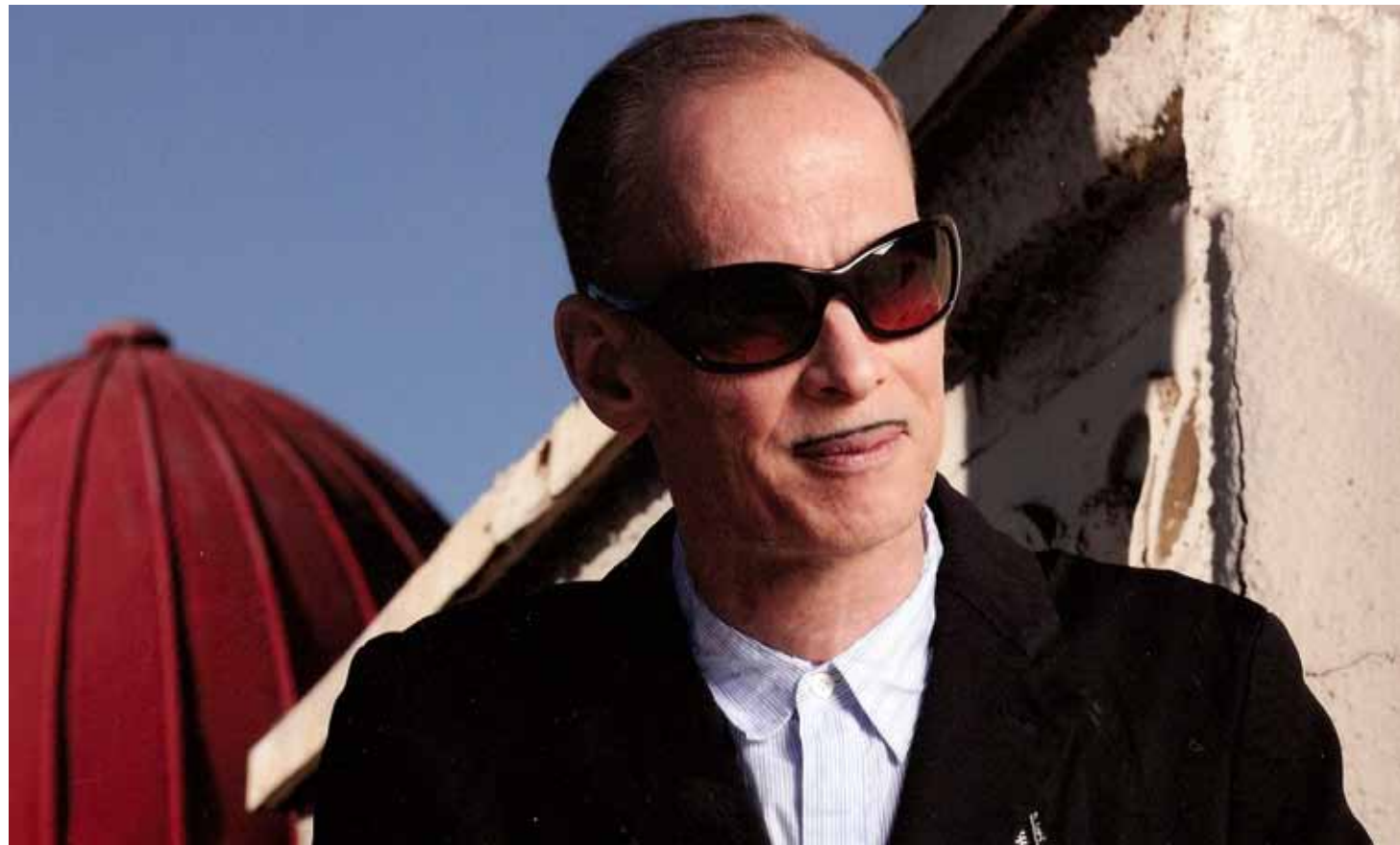
Sure, I'd never actually seen any of his films – but that doesn't mean I don't understand the cultural significance of Baltimore-born filmmaker, actor, artist, comedian, journalist, and writer John Waters, whose body of work spans a full half-century. It just means I had to find a qualified authority on his films before I interviewed him.

"John Waters and the Dreamlanders – the regulars he cast in his films in the '70s and '80s – just went out there and made the crazy, campy films

"When you're young, you can be an alcoholic, you can be a junkie, and you're still sexy, because you're angry and crazy. But at 66 – if you haven't already figured it out by then – it isn't angry, it isn't sexy. It's kind of sad. Anger, when you're young, is sexy. When you're old it's bitterness. And bitterness is never, *ever* sexy."

they wanted to make," said John C. Lyons, my qualified authority on John Waters' films for the purposes of this story. Lyons' credentials include serving as the executive director of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, the founder of the Edinboro Film Series, and the curator of the Erie Reader-sponsored FILM at the Erie Art Museum. Oh yeah – he's also a filmmaker, known for his 99-minute, locally-shot, soon-to-be-released independent film, "There Are No Goodbyes."

"His influences are part highbrow – Fassbinder, Fellini, Bergman – and part sleazy exploitation films, which is obviously a unique combination," said Lyons, of Waters. "I love filmmakers who work independently and are able to find success while maintaining their voice in their films. They



Pictured above: John Waters, not dead.

are an inspiration to me; filmmakers like John Waters paved the way for independent filmmaking today."

Now I don't know what any of that means, but luckily for me, John Waters is not just a "filmmaker." In addition to being best-known for directing more than 15 films since the 1960s including "Hairspray," "Multiple Maniacs," "Roman Candles," and, of course, "Pink Flamingos," Waters is really more of a phenomenon; as a pioneer in transgressive cult film – which, by definition is meant to poke fun at cultural mores by both shocking and amusing – he is often looked to for commentary on cultural issues outside the realm of both film and art in general.

That being said, I decided to approach the time I'd been given with him on the phone as more of a conversation than an interrogation. We'd just have a chat, this brilliant man and I, and if we talked about movies, my qualified authority on John Waters' films for the purposes of this story John C. Lyons had given me enough information

to wing it.

On the other hand, if we talked of the Erie Canal, fax machines, anger, assholes, death, homo- and bi-sexuality, hitchhiking, the Kardashians, and North Korea, that would be just fine too. After all, John Waters' commentary on such diverse subject matter is the *raison-de-etre* of "This Filthy World," his touring performance that saunters in to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania April 4.

Although Waters' appearance in the area was unexpected by some, it happens to be the result of years of work by a disparate group of heroes and heroines who banded together against all odds to accomplish their dreams and overcome obstacles while learning about teamwork, persistence, dedication, and themselves in the process. Almost sounds like a movie, doesn't it?

"A couple years ago, the FSNWPA Founder, Greg Ropp, and I had a conversation about how cool it would be to bring him here," Lyons said. "Coincidentally, some of my Edinboro Film Series student board members dropped his name

last year, so the Edinboro Film Series set up the funding and booking. The EFS gets a budget from the Student Government at Edinboro University which helps a lot, but it came up short for a guest of this caliber."

That's right, this movie isn't one long "rolling up the sleeves" montage set to a peppy Loverboy track before ending in a pasture of rainbow glitter with happy puppies all licking each other with their cute little puppy tongues. This story – like most – does indeed feature some heartbreak and disappointment, and perhaps even some crippling self-doubt in that moment when all looks lost and candied-bacon dreams seem scattered upon the cruel, northwestern Pennsylvania winds. "Came up short" is a nice way of saying "only had half the money."

"We were able to supply some of the funding for the event, but we knew we would need support," said Eric Fink, president of the Edinboro Film Society.

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Student Government Association for more funding; after two presentations and a lot of lobbying, they got what they wanted.

Sort of.

"The SGA gave us close to what we asked for – which was great – but there was still a shortfall," Lyons said. "However, the university itself came through for us to make up the difference. The person who helped us with this final shortfall has asked to remain anonymous."

So, in that very moment of despondence and defeat, a shadowy figure of unknown identity emerged to save the day! That's how movies are supposed to work, right?

I don't know, really. But after learning about the effort it took to bring him to the area, I was even more inspired to make sure that the guy who doesn't watch more than five movies a year talked with John Waters the person, not just John Waters the filmmaker, actor, artist, comedian, journalist, or writer; I hope that after reading this Q & A, you, too are lying in a pasture of rainbow glitter with happy puppies all licking each other with their cute little puppy tongues.

Cory Vaillancourt: Hi, John; Cory Vaillancourt from the Erie Reader. Thanks for taking the time to talk to me today. We're all looking forward to your visit to Edinboro University here in Pennsylvania.

John Waters: I don't think I've been there. And I don't know why, I can't explain it, but I've always wanted to meet someone who says, "Hi, I'm from the Erie Canal area." And I never have.

CV: Well, they were the superhighways of the 1800s. People envisioned them one day spanning the nation, so you could get anywhere with a donkey and a barge. But it just didn't pan out.

JW: Well that just shows you how up-to-date I am on geography. So that would be even more bizarre. If someone said that, especially if it were a young person, then I would know that they are insane.

CV: Quite.

JW: That might end up in one of my scripts or a book someday. I don't know why; sometimes these obsessions come from nowhere, really. I just like how the word sounds.

CV: I'd have to agree – I wouldn't call it alliteration, but it does roll off the tongue. Ear-e-kan-AL.

JW: It kind of does. I have many characters, and I have to fight the urge to have every character's first and last name begin with the same letter.

CV: I have to admit, I don't know an awful lot about your characters or your work, but according to my research, I have to ask you a very serious question right now.

JW: Am I dead?

CV: What's it like to be dead?

JW: You know, actually, the few hours when people believed that, I was asleep. People in Europe found out first, because they're six hours ahead, and then emailed people in America that woke up to that. If I were going to do a hoax

about me, or write an obituary, I could have written it much funnier. I didn't think it was that clever, to be honest; I think somebody wanted to make a name for themselves and I guess they did.

But it is kind of a pain, you know. I don't want to give it more credit than it deserves, really, or encourage others to do it, but now I can say well, I've been dead, too [laughs].

CV: It's weird, these things seem to pop up with little or no encouragement; it's like the prank *du jour* of the Internet age. I suppose it took place back in the fax machine days too...

JW: Right.

CV: But nowadays...

JW: Nowadays, it's worldwide in minutes. The thing is, from what I saw online – and I don't know the person who did it, I'll never look at his website again, I don't really care, I don't hold it against him – but people mostly wrote really mean things about it. I don't think he'll replace The Onion. Let's put it that way. The Onion would have done it much funnier, and I would have been happy.

Let me tell you one thing though – you know who came to my defense? The first one was The National Enquirer. You can look it up on their website – that's one of the first Googles I got

was saying "The National Enquirer says it isn't true."

CV: Strange days, my friend. Strange days.

JW: I'm happy that The National Enquirer stuck up for me.

CV: It's funny, last year I had the pleasure of talking to Mr. Ice. You know, Vanilla? And the same thing had just happened to him; he said the most mortifying thing was that, you know, you're in the public eye and you have to bear the "slings and arrows,"

"There's cool people wherever you go, even if it's not a progressive place – because of the Internet. You don't have to leave home to be cool anymore. That's a radical concept."

but he was mostly worried about his mother finding out.

JW: Well, I did call my mother before she heard.

CV: Yeah, I guess you gotta call mom first.

JW: Actually I try to call her *last*, depending on what the news is [laughing!] But she's used to most anything now.

CV: What's the question reporters ask you that you hate the most?

JW: I don't hate any of 'em, you know? The obvious ones they're going to ask me – "When did you meet [frequent collaborator] Divine?" and "What's the difference between good and bad taste?" Those are probably the two top questions like that. And they're not bad questions – I just can't think of a new answer, though. I've been doing interviews for almost 50 years; every project that I do, like if I'm in concert, I do two to four interviews...I hear those every day, almost, because I do shows all over the world.

But I try to come up with different answers as much as I can, as a sort of test. And I think that if you ever had to go to "celebrity school," you'd have to give 10 interviews where they ask the same questions and you have to give different

answers every time.

I tried to do that in Cannes, where you do a whole day of press. Each table has five reporters, and you have 10 minutes – they’re called “round robins,” and they’re really ludicrous. But it’s a game you can play with your co-promoters, like when you’re there with the star of your movie, you say, “Okay, come on, let’s make sure that we tell the truth and never give the same answer,” which is hard to do. Like talking to you – I forget what I say to each person, [laughing] know what I mean? And as soon as it’s over, it’s kind of like, “I don’t remember what I said.” And sometimes that comes back to haunt me [laughing]. But not anymore; I’m media-wise enough – I hope.

The only time I’m nervous is when they don’t have a tape recorder. And they say, “Oh, I can do it,” and I say, “No you can’t, I talk really fast, and paraphrasing is not quoting.”

CV: And that’s why you’re being recorded right now.

JW: Gooooooooooooo.

CV: I probably should have said that at the outset.

JW: [laughs] Here’s the thing – the only people that can do that are old people, because they know shorthand. No young people know shorthand.

CV: We have iPhones for that nowadays.

JW: It’s the same way when I do book signings, you know? They buy the book and they want to have a picture with me, I would say, “Get the youngest person that works here!” No one over 20 knows how to work every new cell phone... so it’s the same thing – only an old person knows shorthand, and only a young person knows how to operate every new phone.

CV: That’s an interesting point – the engagement of young people with media nowadays. It’s so omnipresent that young people are able to be exposed to your work far easier than, perhaps, a fax that was sent down the Erie Canal. Does that make it more fun for you?

JW: I was in Brussels this past weekend; it was completely sold out – 1,500 people. I’d say the average age was 25. That is the biggest thrill; that’s the only thing that you can’t buy with advertising, so yeah, it’s still fun for me! I like my job. My dreams came true years ago. This is all gravy; this is all beyond anything I ever hoped for when I was a kid. I’m thankful; I’ve been doing this for 50 years! And I’ve always said the reeeeeeeal mark of success is not the money, or the power – it’s just never having to be around assholes.

CV: Ahhhhhh.

JW: And I’m not. Ever.

CV: Well, I’m not there yet, but I’m working on it.

JW: You’ve got to keep working on it and you will be. It’s a great goal to look forward to [laughing].

CV: No more assholes.

JW: Never to have to be around assholes. And that *is* power [laughing].

CV: And you’ve been doing that an awful long time. Do you feel like audiences have become so accustomed to your work that their expectations are much higher than they were in the ‘70s?

JW: I don’t know – a lot of people weren’t even born when I was getting into it; some of them weren’t even born when I made my last movie. In “This Filthy World,” and in my last book, I don’t think I even mentioned my movies. I’m writing a new book now that doesn’t mention them much; it’s about hitchhiking across America, which I

did by myself last May.

So, the movies still show; they’re available, they’re in boxed sets, they even show them on TV now. So I think the movies – whether you like them or hate them – I don’t think they look dated.

CV: And throughout the years, as you’ve grown in popularity, did you ever notice that affecting your creative process?

JW: Sure. The more money in the budget, the more people you gotta answer to – that’s common sense. But there are great trade-offs, too. Do I want to go back and make a movie with the budget of my early movies?

Absolutely not. I *did* that. You do that when you’re young, when you have that anger, and that energy, and that lunacy to make a movie.

You’re going to have that raw anger, when you’re young, and certainly if I had the anger I had when I made “Pink Flamingos” today at 66 years old, I would be a big fool. I mean, who wants to be around an angry old person?

CV: But isn’t there still plenty to be angry about?

JW: Oh, there’s plenty to be angry about! When you’re young, you can be an alcoholic, you can be a junkie, and you’re still sexy, because you’re angry and crazy. But at 66 – if you haven’t already figured it out by then – it isn’t angry, it isn’t sexy. It’s kind of sad. Anger, when you’re young, is sexy. When you’re old it’s bitterness. And bitterness is never, *ever* sexy.

CV: What *is* sexy?

JW: A sense of humor and a refusal to be categorized, sexually. I think people should be coming *in* [as opposed to coming out]. I think we have enough gay people. We have enough. Come *in*. Can’t they audition now? I want to edit the coming out process. “No no no! We don’t want you – we want *you*. You, you’re not really gay, you’re just saying it to be trendy. Go back in.”

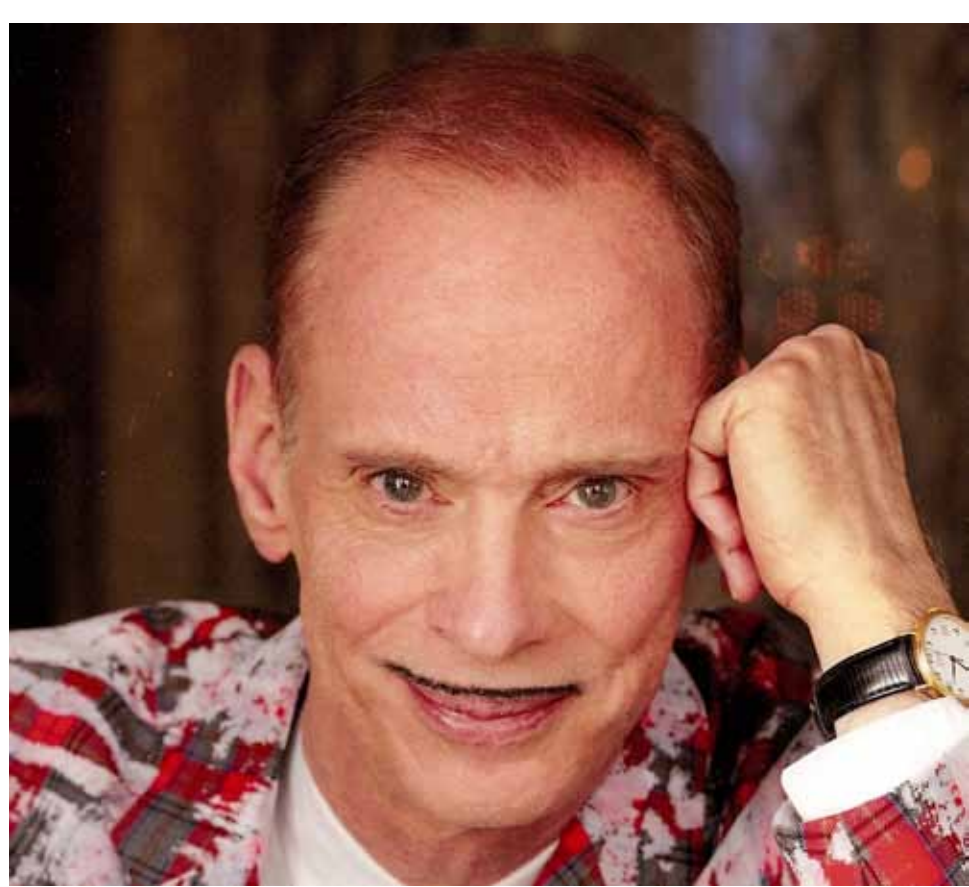
CV: So there should be a screening process?

JW: Yes. *A board*.

CV: A board. You have to appear before a board.

JW: And then you would get an official gay ID.

CV: And what offenses would constitute grounds for revocation thereof?



Legendary filmmaker and cult icon John Waters comes to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania April 4.

JW: Women who pretend they are lesbians to turn on straight men. Make men do it! It’s called a *bro* job, by the way. But men would never do it to turn on women. That is heresy.

CV: I’m a straight white guy. Do these “lesbians” actually exist or are they just a figment of the porn industry’s imagination?

JW: All straight men love the fantasy of two lesbians because they all think they’ll get in and give them what they really need. That is the laaaaaaaast thing they really need, or they wouldn’t be lesbians!

CV: It’s really such a cruel fabrication.

JW: It’s the conceit of heterosexual males. But believe me, there are heterosexual males that

have sex with men. Just because somebody was gay once, doesn’t mean they’re gay forever. They might be experimenting; many people are bisexual. I wish *I* was; Woody Allen said the best thing about it is you double your chance for a date.

CV: Absolutely. Why would you not want to widen your scope of potential targets?

JW: But all the bisexuals I’ve ever met are *mis-erable*. If they’re with men they want to be with women, if they’re with women they want to be with men; they’re never happy [laughs]. I guess the grass looks greener...

CV: The whole “king of trash” label and similar monikers, carrying them around with you for years...what still shocks you? [Cont. on 21]

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Thursday, April 4
7:30 p.m.
Reed Union Building

Music at Noon: The Logan Series

PIACLAVA
Thursday, March 21
Noon
Reed Union Building

Creative Writers Reading Series

FICTION
Aimee Parkison
Thursday, March 28

POETRY
Karina Borowicz
Thursday, April 18

NONFICTION
Diana Abu-Jaber
Thursday, April 25
6:00 p.m.
Larry and Kathryn
Smith Chapel

Studio Theatre

“ANATOMY OF GRAY”
by Jim Leonard
April 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 8 p.m.
April 7, 2 p.m.
Tickets \$5
Phone 898-6242
to reserve tickets.

behrend.psu.edu

If We Were You...

WEDNESDAY 3.20

Skate with the Eerie Roller Girls

Tonight, for just \$5, you (yes, you!) can finally fulfill your lifelong secret fantasy of being a roller girl (or guy) by joining members of Erie's own non-profit flat track roller derby team for an evening of skating! A Chinese auction and bake sale will take place; concessions and official ERG gear will also be available. Proceeds from the event benefit the team's 2013 season.

When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: 3162 W. Lake Road

Contact: www.EerieRollerGirls.com

THURSDAY 3.21

The Zombie Movie Encyclopedia

Calling all zombie fans! Here's a great opportunity for you to catch some walkers without waiting for the new episode of "The Walking Dead." Join Penn State Behrend as they host a discussion of the zombie arts hosted by Peter Dendle. Dendle, a leading expert on cinema involving our beloved walkers, is the author of "The Zombie Movie Encyclopedia Vols. 1 and 2," and will be discussing

"Zombie Movies: Redefining the Zombie for the 'War on Terror.'"

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: 180 Jack Burke Research and Economic Development Center, 5101 Jordan Road

Contact: behrend.psu.edu

Drips & Beats: Hip-hop Against Violence

The Drips & Beats crew is all for helping you fight for your right to party, but when it comes to violence, they're putting their foot down. Instead, they're providing a party that has no place for fights or any of that negativity, featuring the Original Elements DJs, Random Union, William Weyes, and works from some of the best local graffiti artists.

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

FRIDAY 3.22

Maria J Langer Film Series presents "Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry"

Named one the year's five best documentaries, "Never Sorry" tells the tale of the daring Chinese activist - and artist- who clashes with the

Beijing leaders on multiple -and frequent - occasions. Weiwei was chosen by Time Magazine as a runner up for Person of the Year in 2011 for his tireless intentions of revealing the oppression in China.

When: 7:15 p.m.

Where: Taylor Little Theatre, Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St.

Contact: 824.3000

Rachel Brooke

Ever wanted to travel through time? Well, until someone invents a machine that actually transports you to a different time and place, you can always settle for someone that can make you feel like you're in a different decade. Rachel Brooke oozes with old country soul, enough so that you'll think you've been transported into some sepia-toned decade in the old west.

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.

Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

SATURDAY 3.23

Wine on the Lake

Now in it's eighth year, this popular tasting event at the Bayfront Convention Center will feature 25 wineries - more than ever before! Also featuring live music and vendors; hotel packages at the Avalon (which include accommodations and transport) are still available.

When: 1 to 4 p.m. or 5 to 9 p.m.

Where: 1 Sassafras Pier

Contact: 607.329.0992

Star Wars and Beyond

The man with the very ordinary moniker has produced some very extraordinary works in his career; composer John Williams may not be a household name to many, but his music is readily identifiable - he counts the themes to "Harry Potter," "Jaws," "Jurassic Park," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Schindler's List," "Star Wars," and "Superman" among his accomplishments. Don't miss this chance to hear his works the way they were meant to be heard - live and performed by dozens of highly-trained musicians from the Erie Philharmonic, inside the gorgeous Warner Theater.

When: 8 p.m.

Where: 811 State St.

Contact: www.EriePhil.org

Opening of The Bearded Lady

Instead of gunning to post "First!" on some random Internet post before anybody else has a chance to comment, you can actually head down to The Bearded Lady for its very first show. The brand new venue, which you can read more about on page 18, is kicking things off with hardcore acts xRepresentx, GhostxShip, No Zodiac, Menace, Black Mask, and Hellsent on this exciting night.

When: 5:30 p.m.

Where: The Bearded Lady, 801 E. 11 St.

Contact: 453.4550

Ventana

While you've all been all good and nice in the week leading up this show, tonight is the night that you can let a little darkness out, because Ventana's come to town. The Cleveland-based industrial-metal band has sinister undertones in spades, all while providing enough headbang for your hard-earned buck.

When: 10 p.m.

Where: Sherlock's, 508 State St.

Contact: 453.7760

SUNDAY 3.24

Star Wars Brunch

Picture this - a decadent brunch in an elegant hotel with a man, his sister, their estranged father, and her star-crossed lover. Intrigue and alienation are cast against this luxurious backdrop as the man's mentor - and mortal enemy of the man's father - also attends. Sound like a foreign movie plot? Nope, it's just a not-quite breakfast, not-quite lunch with Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, Han Solo, and Yoda at the Bel Aire!

When: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: 2800 W. Eighth St.

Contact: www.EriePhil.org

TUESDAY 3.26

Light the Way to Justice

Curious about the future of Prop 8? DOMA? The upcoming SCOTUS hearings and how they'll affect the future of "marriage" for years to come? Join Marriage Equality for PA for a peaceful candlelight vigil in front of the Erie Courthouse, as State Senator Sean Wiley and Gov. candidate John Hanger, among others, will speak on these issues.

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Erie Courthouse, 140 W. Sixth St.

Contact: Joshua Szczesny 923.3149

WEDNESDAY 3.27

FILM at the Erie Art Museum presents: "A Royal Affair"

If you are a fan of romance, history, costume dramas, or all three, you owe it to yourself to check out "A Royal Affair." Set in 1760s Denmark, this film tells the story of British Princess Caroline, who is married to the mad King Christian VII of Denmark. Caroline enters into an affair with an idealistic German doctor and all hell breaks loose. Get to the Erie Art Museum early for drinks, food, and friends.

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Erie Art Museum, 411 State St.

Contact: [Facebook.com/FilmErieArtMuseum](https://facebook.com/FilmErieArtMuseum)

THURSDAY 3.28

Edinboro Film Series presents: "The Woman"

It's the classic tale of an ordinary family living an



Thu. Mar. 21

Taught by Nuns

Fri. Mar. 22

Grunge Monkey

Sat. Mar. 23

Vetana

Wed. Mar. 27

Break Free Wednesday Presented By: The Box

Thu. Mar. 28

Rift

Fri. Mar. 29

Bitchwax, Local 80, Kevlar, Hammersmith

Sat. Mar. 30

Hammerd

508 State Street 18-20 North Park Row 814-453-7760

ordinary life in an ordinary place who just happen to capture the last remaining member of clan that had been wandering the Northeast coast for decades surviving in the wilderness and subsequently try to civilize her. Okay, maybe that last bit isn't so ordinary -- which is exactly why you ought to pony-up the \$2 and go catch this Lucky McKee-directed flick with an introduction by student and author Zach Owen. Besides, a trip to Edinboro this week will get you ready for next week when legendary filmmaker -- and subject of this issue's cover story -- John Waters makes an appearance.

When: 8:30 p.m.
Where: 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, Scot Cinema, Pogue Student Center, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Contact: 732.1048

FRIDAY 3.29

Goth Night

Whether you're a member of the Germanic people that invaded the Roman Empire from the east between the 3rd and 5th centuries or just a fan of gothic music or music in general, you can head down to Basement Transmissions for Goth Night. With established Erie metalheads DisgraceD leading a quintet of acts, you won't feel like roamin' anywhere else.

When: 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Where: Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St.
Contact: basement-transmissions.webs.com

Erie Zoo Animal Art Show & Sale

Have you ever wanted the chance to purchase a painting of your favorite zoo animal that was created just for you? Then stop by the Zoo stage for a chance to take a gander at the Erie Zoo's artwork. There will also be the chance to purchase bookmarks, key chains, and travel mugs with your favorite animals. During the show, there will be a painting demonstration for your chance to see the artist hard at work.

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St.
Contact: 864.4091

SATURDAY 3.30

Eric Brewer & Friends CD Release Party

If you've been wishing, and hoping, and thinking, and praying for a new album by local jamsters Eric Brewer & Friends, then all your hopes and dreams (Not all of your hopes and dreams, just this one - Ed.) are about to come true. The band

has finished their newest CD and they're having a release party at the crooked i for you to come and celebrate with them.

When: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Where: the crooked i, 1013 State St.
Contact: facebook.com/thecrookedierie

SUNDAY 3.31

Great Big Films on the Big Green Screen

Ever ask yourself, "Self, what's so great about the Great Lakes, anyway?" Find out right now at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center! Check out "Mysteries of the Great Lakes" on aforementioned big, green screen. After all, you do live right next to one.

When: Noon
Where: 301 Peninsula Drive
Contact: www.TRECerIE.org

MONDAY 4.01

Afternoon Hoops with the Bayhawks

You may think this is some cruel April Fool's joke, but you'd be wrong. We wouldn't do that to you. The Bayhawks are tipping off today at 1:00, and you can be there to cheer them toward the playoffs as they play host to the last place Springfield Armor. You say you have to be at work/school at 1:00 on a Monday afternoon? Fake an illness, if you get busted just say "April Fools!"

When: 1 p.m.
Where: Erie Insurance Arena
Contact: 790.5600

TUESDAY 4.02

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center presents *Ninety Miles*

Four-hundred-seventy-five-thousand-two-hundred feet. Or ninety miles. That's all that separates the Florida Keys from Cuba. But you won't have to travel the 1,454 miles south to Key West and hop a boat to hear the mix of Afro-Caribbean rhythms and American jazz and blues. All you have to do is get to the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center to hear *Ninety Miles*, a group featuring great jazz artists bringing that southern flavor and flare right to your own backyard. So this Tuesday enjoy the warmth of the south without leaving The Gem City.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: 501 E. 38th St.
Contact: 824.2000.

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March 23-30
Student Exhibit: Ben Lambert and Jocelyn Howard
Bates Gallery, Loveland Hall
 11am-6pm

March 26
Esther Alice Estock Award Competition
Dr. William P. Alexander Music Building, Recital Hall
 2pm

March 26
Women Environmentalists: Powerful Pioneers
Cooper Science Center, Room 147
 4-5pm

As part of Women's History Month, this talk will focus on women who have made pioneering contributions to the environmental movement.

March 27
UPMC Hamot and EU Present: Breastival Festival
Frank G. Pogue Student Center, Multipurpose Room
 11am-3pm

This free event is held to raise breast cancer and testicular cancer awareness. Enjoy free food, fun games, and prizes.

March 28
Visiting Artist: Alexis Rockman
Doucette Hall, Room 119
 7:30pm



EDINBORO UNIVERSITY
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March 30 - April 6
Graphic Design Senior Show
Bates Gallery, Loveland Hall
 11am-6pm

April 3-25
Ceramics Invitational
Bruce Gallery, Doucette Hall
 Reception: April 3, 5-7pm

Featuring Ashley Lyon, Hide Sadohara, Tom Bartel, Brian Harper, Bethany Krull, Jason Briggs and selected works from the Phillis Blair Clark Collection. Curated by EU Ceramics professors Chuck Johnson and Lee Rexrode.





All events are on Edinboro University main campus

For a full listing of events, visit
www.edinboro.edu/calendar



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UPCOMING EVENTS



RACHEL BROOKE

MARCH 22 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



DRAGON WAGON

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS THE BLIND OWL BAND

MARCH 23 // SATURDAY @ 10:00



THE VULTURES

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS THE COUCHRIDERS

MARCH 24 // THURSDAY @ 10:00



ALTARED MINDSET SUPERNOVA

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

MARCH 28 // THURSDAY @ 10:00



THE ROMANTIC ERA

MARCH 29 // FRIDAY @ 10:00



ERIC BREWER AND FRIENDS

CD RELEASE PARTY

MARCH 30 // SATURDAY @ 10:00

TUE: Songwriter Showcase & Vinyl Night
SUN: Open Mic & Jam

To-do List

By: Alex Bieler

Buffalo Punk Explosion!

For every band you hear on popular radio or see make an appearance on TV, there are plenty of others that you'll likely never hear in your life. Of course, that doesn't mean that there isn't more out there that's worth a listen. Thousands of band members are strumming their guitars, bashing on their kits, and singing their hearts out, even though there's a chance that they'll never have a bigger night than the gig they're presently playing.

While the chart-topping musicians soak in the cold cash and adoration their fans throw at them, it's the small DIY groups that strive to entertain

"I devolved and evolved into poetry because I became more interested in the smallest unit of beauty or communication, so I'm just preoccupied with the line, and poetry is just delivering line after line after line."

their towns that deserve a sizable portion of the average music fan's attention.

Luckily for these underground grinders, the camera does occasionally fix its glass eye on local heroes, whether they're from Erie or elsewhere. Understanding that these stories should be told, the folks at the Performing Artists Collective Alliance decided that our fair city needed to experience the "Buffalo Punk Explosion!"

Starting at 7 p.m. Friday, March 22, the event pairs Buffalo music scribe Elmer Ploetz's documentary "BFLO PNK 1.0," which chronicles the talented punk scene in the city just a two-hour drive up East I-90, with a show featuring Buffalo's beloved avant-garde group The Vores and Erie's own Unordained.

The visit will mark the first time both Ploetz's powerful punk piece and The Vores will play in The Gem City, although the former's story of a blue-collar town's talented music scene should be familiar enough for Erieites.

"Every city had its same version of the same thing going on," Ploetz says, suggesting that attendees will be engrossed by the personal stories in his film. "That's why I think Buffalo was like Erie was like Pittsburgh was like Cleveland and a lot of the experiences, some of them may be sort of Buffalo-specific, but I'll bet there will be people in Erie who will be saying 'Hey, you could have said that about our town.'"

According to Ploetz, it wasn't just the Rustbelt

cities that experienced waves of local talent. Different microcosms of musical men and women populate all of our nation's cities, and even if you'll never necessarily notice them, their struggle for success is a tale that can be understood across the land.

"I think it was going on in 100 cities across America at the same time," Ploetz says in reference to the local music explosion. "I really hope it's a little more universal and that it will translate to people in Erie. It's got a lot of humor in it and a lot of good music and I think people will enjoy it."

For your chance to support these underground heroes, head down to 1505 State St. for a punk-filled night at PACA. Tickets for the night are available for \$10 online at buffalopunkerie.eventbrite.com or \$12 at the door.

Pure Doctor


When we're hurt, sick, or suffering from some physical malady, we can always go to a doctor for help; but while physicians can work to take care of our physical well-being, we often go elsewhere for some mental recuperation.

Given that we are made of both body and mind, it's in our best interest to take care of both. In fact, both sides go hand-in-hand in "Pure Doctor" at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 23 at the Performing Artists Collective Alliance Performing Arts Center featuring a series of original poems by local poet Chuck Joy.

"It was on my mind to think about integration and bringing things together from my own perspective, so thought it might be an opportunity to have a theatrical poetry event where the theme was a medical perspective," says Joy, who is also a child psychiatrist. "Helping people – that sort of thing. It was a terrific opportunity to kind of address that personally through this show but also offer something to the community through poetry."

Sponsored in part by the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, "Pure Doctor" features a multitude of local poets and health-care professionals. According to Joy, the wide range of performers mirrors the different players that appear in his works.

"The poems themselves present a whole variety of characters and types, men and women, doctors, medical students, patients, a whole gamut of people – even a dog," Joy says. "I devolved and evolved into poetry because I became more interested in the smallest unit of beauty or communication, so I'm just preoccupied with the line, and poetry is just delivering line after line after line. So here, to break it up a little bit, I invited a whole bunch of other voices to share that."

If you're in need of a mental-health break and could use some thoughtful entertainment to soothe your mind, make your way to PACA to allow some Joy in your life. Admittance to "Pure Doctor" calls for a suggested donation of \$10. 

Alex Bieler can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ [Catch20Q](https://twitter.com/Catch20Q).

Theater Review:

"Sense and Sensibility"

By: Ben Spегgen

I'll begin with an admission: I'm not a woman – in case you didn't know – so I don't, and can't, understand wholly the sisterly love thing.

Perhaps I should follow that with a second admission: I'm an only child, so I don't know what

Separately, the sisters Elinor and Marianne are each dull and flat on one side but sharp and deadly on the other. But together, they guard against their exposed sharp edges.

it's like to have a sibling – brother *or* sister – with which to quarrel and to experience growing pains, to rely on in desperate times of need, to love, to hate, to live life with as we march onward along the crooked path overgrown with obstacles.

But from what I've heard, the bond between siblings can be unlike any other relationship in overcoming those hurdles. And from what I've learned during my time as an English major, few

writers capture women better – their relationships with each other and with men – than Jane Austen.

At the heart of Austen's 1811 classic, we find the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne, the head and heart, respectively, of Austen's tale of loss and love and balance in late-18th century England. Sharp in love and logical, the two-halves of Elinor (Jennifer Blair) and Marianne (Marie Glaser) unite to balance each other, like two opposite, awkward blades, pinned together to form a pair of scissors. When joined, the sisters keenly work through the loss of their father and their respective futures in love; when unhinged, they're lacking yet dangerous to anyone grabbing hold of the wrong side.

The pin holding the blades together comes by way of their mother Mrs. Henry Dashwood (Teresa Tetrake). Although she tends to initially favor Marianne, the character from whom we see the most development throughout the play, the daughters' mother serves as a plot-mover and drives the development of her two daughters as Elinor begins to recognize her heart's panging and Marianne tempers her emotional overflows with a bit of thought and maturity, as the two leave their homestead, settle into a cottage, travel to London, and return home.

While it's refreshing to see a classic set in its



Some of the stars of *Sense and Sensibility*, from left: Eresa Tetrake (Mrs. Henry Dashwood), Jennifer Blair (Elinor), Marie Glaser (Marianne), and Ed Moss (Sir John Middleton)

intended time with its original language, the Jon Jory-written play unfolds in 21 scenes – some as short as 30 seconds – making it difficult to feel locked into the narrative at times. But director Carolynn Lynn negotiates these quick changes in time and place with costume, lighting and scenery cues, preventing the audience from ever feeling completely lost in transition, and the delivery of the script from the actors never seems obtuse or distant.

Glaser presents a vivacious Marianne – often twirling, arms open and swinging, smiling, crying, laughing, screaming – a bold and beautiful display of someone overcome with emotion but troubled by her own lack of reservation. Blair contains her Elinor with great control, conveying a stoic and distant woman both challenged by the carefree nature of her counterpart and her own desire to open her heart up to potential breaking.

While Gretchen Kerr's Fanny – the sister-in-law to Elinor and Marianne – adds comic relief at times, an outburst at Lucy Steele (Kathleen Cahill) exaggerated to a near bathetic point, as the screaming and wailing muffled and distorted both ladies' lines, pulls the audience out of the moment. And while Steele has a chance to steal

the show with snarky, well-timed lines, her opposition to the Dashwood sisters falls flat of its true potential.

Two standout performances come from Evan O'Polka, whose nervous and fidgety Edward Ferrars uses the stage better than anyone else and the ever-dapper Domenic Del Greco, as Willoughby, who genuinely convinces the audience into thinking he's something he's not.

Separately, the sisters Elinor and Marianne are each dull and flat on one side but sharp and deadly on the other. But together, they guard against their exposed sharp edges. And together, Blair and Glaser seem like two blood-born sisters, scissoring their way through life's crooked and overgrown path to life, love, and a happily-ever-after.

"Sense and Sensibility" continues its run at the Erie Playhouse March 20 through 23, with shows at 7:30 p.m., and a final matinee performance at 2 p.m. March 24.

Ben Spегgen can be contacted at bSpегgen@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ERBenSpегgen.

ERIE
Erie Art Museum

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FilmSocietyNWPA.org
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Spring 2013 | Wednesdays | Doors at 6pm, FILM at 7pm

MAR 20 | SMASHED (2012)

Sponsored by Edinboro University

5:30PM Reception for EUP Alumni + Passholders

A married couple whose bond is built on a mutual love of alcohol gets their relationship put to the test when the wife decides to get sober. 81 mins. Rated R.

Sashimi-style Ahi Tuna or Veggie, Fruit and Cheese plate from Outback Steakhouse.



Dinner and a Movie for \$15 must be purchased by 12pm on the Tuesday prior to the film at FilmSocietyNWPA.org. Join us weekly for the AFTER PARTY at U Pick 6 Taphouse!



MAR 27 | A ROYAL AFFAIR (2012)

A young queen, who is married to an insane king, falls secretly in love with her physician – and together they start a revolution that changes a nation forever. Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Film. 137 mins. Rated R. Danish subtitles.

Chicken pesto Flatbread, Caesar Salad, and Cheese muffin on the side from U Pick 6 Taphouse.



FILM at the Erie Art Museum is presented by the Film Society of Northwest Pennsylvania, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with the support of these sponsors: Erie Art Museum, Erie Reader, Edinboro University, Magic Hat Brewing Company, U Pick 6 Taphouse, and Outback Steakhouse.



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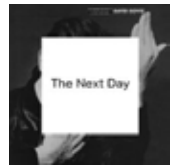
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MUSIC REVIEWS

David Bowie
The Next Day
Iso

★★★★★



After 23 studio albums, a multitude of personas, and immense critical and commercial success, David Bowie has nothing that he needs to prove to the music world. Still, that doesn't mean that he doesn't still want to be heard. On his first album in a decade – and first since a 2004 heart attack that had seemingly pushed him to retirement – Bowie doesn't take a new form as much as effortlessly mold his previous personas together into one collective piece. That doesn't mean that "The Next Day" sounds like a recap, mind you. Bowie, while admittedly older, can still wail away, providing new bombast amongst the songs. Of course, the album doesn't come near touching his classics, nor would we expect it to, but the fresh batch of tunes mixed with touches of old, like the drumbeat from "Five Years" on "You Feel So Lonely You Could Die," make for a welcome return. ~ Alex Bieler

Son Volt
Honky Tonk Rouser

★★★



Nearly 20 years after the dissolution of Uncle Tupelo, the careers of the band's main minds, Jeff Tweedy and Jay Farrar, have gone in two different directions. While Tweedy and his band Wilco have gone on to release a string of critically-beloved albums, you don't hear about Farrar's Son Volt nearly as much anymore. Wilco may have taken the alt-country of Uncle Tupelo and began experimenting with it, but Farrar and Sun Volt went back in time, sticking with folk-country tunes about the little guys of America. "Honky Tonk," Sun Volt's latest album, focuses in on the Bakersfield sound of the '60s, kicking off the album with a nice waltz in "Hearts and Minds," with touches of pedal steel and fiddle livening up the tune. After that, however, it's a healthy dose of the exact same safe country croon, leaving "Honky Tonk" a rather boring affair. ~ Alex Bieler

Youth Lagoon
Wondrous Bughouse
Fat Possum

★★★★★



Since the release of his debut album back in 2011, Trevor Powers, who performs as Youth Lagoon, has moved on to bigger things – quite literally – leaving the home recordings in Boise, Idaho for a studio in Atlanta to work on his sophomore release "Wondrous Bughouse." You can hear the change in the album, as this new batch of songs sound bigger, and more confident than those from just two years ago. Powers creates a dreamlike world on "Wondrous Bughouse," at times channeling both Deerhunter and even Sigur Ros on the ear-pleasing "Mute." While fun and fanciful at times, Powers manages to mix an ominous feel amid in his music, singing about unanswered pleas and a lack of self-worth in his childlike voice. Although some of the production touches and vocals are lost in the mix, it all adds up to an impressive sonic landscape. ~ Alex Bieler

Kate Nash
Girl Talk
10p Records

★★★



A concept album driven by relationships, angst, frustration, liberation, happiness, hatred, and any other feeling standard to pulsing punk-pop peppered with fem-rock spices throughout, "Girl Talk" gives listeners both old and new Kate Nash. The old populates the album's lyrics, as Nash delivers an album shrouded in a mist of confusion, most clearly seen in "Rap for Rejection," a candid observation on the complication of relationships. But the music here is more complex than her previous works. The surfer guitar on "Death Proof" adds dimension to her rants and raves, and the melodic pairing of Nash's vocal and guitar on "Are You There Sweetheart" gives the album a necessary tenderness that contrasts Nash's screeching in tracks like "Sister." "Conventional Girl" and "OMY-GOD!" epitomizes the album – one, featuring delicate swirling backing vocals that open to a thrashing Nash, and the other, a dynamic, jerky shift in pace without warning or reservation. ~ Ben Speggen

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Art Imitating Life

By: Leslie McAllister

This topic may have popped up over one of the many Erie Reader issues I have under my Gucci belt, but I feel like a revisit is in order. After all, I suppose it is how I tend to look at style and fashion.

When flipping through magazines my eye goes to editorial that is vibrant, full of patterns and colors, and filled with bold, sparkling jewelry. I like to play "I Spy" with my periodicals. Thus, I love when outfits are put together from the soul, not by what's on trend.

Just a couple name drops of style leaders that exemplify my approach: Kate Moss, Olivia Palermo, Nicole Richie, MKA (also known as that which is the Olsen twins), SJP (if you have to ask stop reading – SJP is the new LBD), Anna Della Russo, and a real zinger, Zandra Rhodes (no relation to Nick Rhodes – though as a gent, he could be listed here as well).

These gems stay true to their style. Their art is dictated by how they dress. Style is more interesting when it makes sense but doesn't match. Here, we are wearing multiple patterns, like stripes and florals, rich colors, bold makeup, or layering in the most skilled way – enter MKA and Miss Palermo.

When layering, you have long flowing, draping garments: wide-legged jeans, a baggy T-shirt, a wrap cardigan, and a scarf. Or slim-cut pants with a blouse, a blazer, a floppy hat, just dripping in gold and silver jewelry. It's a bohemian approach to dressing – the idea that adding the unexpected brings da funk and da cool.

Guys check out these greats: Cameron Silver, Marc Jacobs, Johnny Depp (though he gets a little crazy), and my very personal favorite, Andre 3000. For the fellas, it's all about layering and mixing prints. A winning smile helps too. Wink.

Who? Heather Riehl

Where? Lakeside at the foot of Blackstone & Beachgrove

Why Heather? Heather has an artist's aesthetic to dressing. She works with the unexpected and pulls together looks that are interesting and attractive. She probably colored outside the lines when she was a kid!

Here, Heather pairs a navy blue and white striped dress from Anthropologie with a perfect sunny car coat. I love her ox-blood boots and fresh jewelry. "The earrings are from Glass Growers and the necklace was made by my friend Mara," she tells me. Perfection!

What We Want to Know

Describe your style. My style is very eclectic. My theory is that if a piece is either classic or very unusual you can wear it forever. A friend once told me there is always something a little off about my outfits, which I guess sums it up. If I am wearing a nice dress, I might match it with a pair of fringed boots or a rubber handbag or some wild jewelry that doesn't necessarily match. I don't do it on purpose; it is just that those odd pieces are what I am most attracted to.

Who is your favorite fashion innovator? If I had to pick a celebrity, I would say Michelle Williams. She always looks feminine and classy with



a flair. She doesn't follow trends, and that is why she always looks amazing.

Favorite go to outfit for summer concerts. Because I like a variety of styles, my goal in choosing an outfit for a concert is to NOT dress for the style of music. It bothers me when people dress like hippies only on a day they are going to see Phish or whatnot. So when I go to a concert, I still dress like me. Jeans and a fun top with a jacket and some funky jewelry.

Your Top 3 favorite retail websites? Sundance-catalog.com, anthropologie.com and Patagonia.com

Your three favorite artists? Amedeo Modigliani, Maxfield Parish, and Alphonse Mucha.

Tell me about the art classes you are doing with the kids. I returned to school to get my certification in art education, which I finished last fall. Right now, I am substitute teaching, which doesn't give me a lot of input in lessons, but I am filled with ideas!

What are your favorite art lessons to teach? My favorite lessons to do with kids are ones that allow them to express themselves. Putting too many restrictions on a lesson can restrict creativity. I bring other subject matter into my lesson plans, as well because integrating other subjects helps students realize the importance of art education.

What do you love most about Erie? I am one of the few people who actually likes snow. Presque Isle State Park and Asbury Woods are treasures to have in my hometown. I love having four seasons. I have traveled to many places and every time I catch a sunset on Lake Erie, I think, this is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been.

Favorite local businesses? We have a lot of amazing local restaurants in Erie. Some of my favorites are: Avanti's, 1201 Kitchen, and Petra. As far as retail stores, my mom owns Rustic and Refined in the Colony Plaza, and she always has fun items. I also like to visit Campbell Pottery and Glass Grower's Gallery for fun gifts and accessories.

Check out these blogs for inspiration: www.thenativefox.blogspot.com, www.noirohiovintage.com, www.streetpeeper.com.

Find me out on the town and challenge yourself to get noticed by the Erie Reader!

Center City Arts Presents
THE ART OF WELL-BEING

This exhibit, by the Center City Arts community of Stairways Behavioral Health, presents art as a medium for positive reflection that leads to fuller and more vibrant selves, connections, communities and lives.

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New All-Ages Music Venue Set to Open

The Bearded Lady Brings New Life to the Lower East Side

By: Alex Bieler

On a cold, damp Monday evening, I found myself driving down a section of East 11th Street that I rarely travelled, guiding Ol' Big Sexy, my faithful pewter-grey truck, eastbound from State Street as she gently rumbled past the various cars parked on either side.

Eventually Ol' Big Sexy and I made our way down to the last intersection before E. 11th breaks off because of the Bayfront Parkway. On the northeast corner of E. 11th and Wayne streets, I spied a red brick building with a sign reading "Broken Inn" and a big Mid-Town Tattoo-embazoned vehicle parked right beside it. It was then that I knew I had reached my destination.

You see, the former Broken Inn has been going through some changes recently, part of a transformation that will end up with the place emerging as The Bearded Lady, a brand spankin' new all-ages venue right here in our beloved city. Slated to open at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23 with xRepresentx, GhostxShip, and other hardcore acts taking the stage, The Bearded Lady was well underway in its renovation, as I discovered when I opened the black door at the entrance.

Standing by a long, light-brown bar inside the building were Don Sornberger and Johnny Maters, the tattooed twosome behind the venue. Much like Mid-Town, where Don is the owner and Johnny works as a tattoo artist, the room was

"There isn't much for kids to do. [Going to a show] is definitely just something to do. You get to meet up with your friends – it's inexpensive, something to bring people together and keep you from walking around the streets doing nothing."

decked out in black and red, sandwiched by the white of the ceiling and floor. Artwork by Johnny and fellow tattoo artists Corey Thompson and Eerie Eric adorns the walls by the stage – a spectral face here, a Yeti there – giving the place a distinct feel and identity. Much like the appear-

ance, Don and Johnny chose the name of the venue because it, well, certainly grabs your attention.

"It was long enough to fit across the front of the building and look good," Don said, while he stood behind the bar, where they'll sell water, pop, energy drinks, and other non-alcoholic items. As music fans themselves, Don and Johnny wanted to make sure that The Bearded Lady could be a place where younger bands could play, but where younger audiences could go and have fun as well.

"There's not a lot of places besides bars for bands to play where younger kids can come and see live music," Johnny said. "Hangout, Forward Hall – those don't really exist anymore, so there isn't much for kids to do. [Going to a show] is definitely just something to do. You get to meet up with your friends – it's inexpensive, something to bring people together and keep you from walking around the streets doing nothing."

Don and Johnny pointed out that while the opening event is a hardcore show, they want to give everybody a chance to play, whether it's hip-hop, rock, or whatever else. But there is one group of people that they won't tolerate however – troublemakers.

"It's definitely going to be a drama-free environment," Don said. "We're not going to tolerate any problems, like fights – stuff like that. Who-

ever's the problem starter, they can go and they're not going to be allowed back in. We're not going to be a nuisance."

Instead, the two are set to join in with the rest of Erie's music venues as another outlet for entertainment and Don and Johnny's work will have truly started when The Bearded Lady starts singing March 23.

Alex Bieler, who approves of both beards and ladies and the combination thereof, can be contacted at aBieler@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Catch20Q.



Interior of the new all-ages venue The Bearded Lady

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-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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Events Calendar / March 20 - April 2

Arts & Culture

ONGOING.

Exhibit: The Cup: Works by Valerie Gilman and Doug Lodge

Through March 31. Erie Art Museum, Holstein Gallery, 20 E. Fifth St. For more information, call 459.5477.

Second Sundays

From 1 to 5 p.m., every second Sunday of the month, explore the Erie Art Museum free of charge. 411 State St. For more information, call 459.5477.

Open Mic and Art Show

First Friday of the month, 7 to 11 p.m. All styles of music, comedy, and poetry are welcome. Forward Hall, 2502 Peach St., All ages, Free snacks and coffee. For more information, go to facebook.com/forwardhallevnts.

2nd annual Presque Isle Art Competition Submissions

Through March 29. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, For more information, call 217.9632 or email bgula@pa.gov.

Erie Playhouse presents: Sense and Sensibility

March 20-24 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday shows at 2 p.m., An intimate journey through hope and heartbreak as two young ladies find that when sense and sensibility meet, love can't be far behind. Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St., For more information, contact the box office at 454.2852 or visit erieplayhouse.org.

2013 Schuster Fringe Festival presents: Glow Show

March 21-23 at 8 p.m., Gannon University's Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St., \$5/pp. For more information visit gannon.edu.

D'Angelo Department of Music presents: 'The Marriage of Figaro'

March 22-24, Time TBA, Mary D' Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., For more information call 824.3000 or visit miac.mercyhurst.edu.

SAT-SUN, MAR. 23-24

Auditions for Dramashows "8" and "title of show"
11 a.m. Sat, and 5 p.m. Sun, Gannon University's Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St., first-time and experienced actors welcome. For more information contact info@dramashop.org.

SAT-SUN, MAR. 23-24

2013 Schuster Fringe Festival presents: True West
March 21-23 at 8 p.m., Gannon University's Zurn Building Rm 104, 135 West 7th St., \$5/pp. For more information visit gannon.edu.

SAT-SUN, MAR. 23-24

Erie Philharmonic presents: Star Wars and Beyond
7 p.m., Erie Philharmonic, 609 Walnut St., For more information call 455.1375 or visit eriephil.org.

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SUN, MAR. 24

The Erie Playhouse presents: The Princess Ball
3 to 5:30 p.m., The Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center, Crystal Ballroom, 7794 Peach St., For registration information call the box office at 454.2852.

All An Act Theatre presents: The Liberation of Jerome Gleason
3 p.m., All An Act Theatre, 652 West 17th St., \$10/pp, \$7 students and seniors. For more information call 450.8553 or visit allanact.net.

Family Friendly

ONGOING

Wild Holiday: Winter Animals of PI

2 to 3:30 p.m., Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Drive. Free. For registration information, call 833.7424.

Planetarium Show

Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m., Erie Planetarium, 356 W. 6th St., \$5/pp \$4 child. For more information, call 871.5790.

SUN, MAR. 24

Calling all Princesses to dance at the Princess Ball presented by the Erie Playhouse
Youtheatre
3 to 5:30 p.m., Crystal Ballroom at the Ambassador Hotel, 7794 Peach St., \$20 each and tables of 10 are \$180. For reservation information contact the box office at 452.2852 or go to erieplayhouse.org.

SAT, MAR. 30

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
9 to 11 a.m., expERIENCE Children's Museum, 420 French St., \$12 members, \$15 non-members incl. hot breakfast, entertainment by Buzz n Bees, and spring themed art activities. For more information, call 453.3743.

Erie Zoo Spring Egg-venture Egg Hunt
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Erie Zoo, 423 West 38th St., Reg. admission price. For more information, call 864.4091.

SUN, MAR. 31

Easter Brunch at TREC
11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunset Cafe at Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive., \$18.95 Adults, \$10.95 Children, Under 3 Free. \$2 off movie ticket with purchase. For reservation information call 833.5843.

SAT, MAR. 30

Community Call to Peace - Silence the Violence Event
4 to 9 p.m., Baybreeze Lounge, 25 E. 10th St., \$5. For more information, call 838.8941.

Dragon Wagon wsg/ The Blind Owl Band
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

Ventana
10 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

House DJ
9 p.m., Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. For more information go to oasispub.net, or visit facebook.com/oasispuberie.

Vicious J Show
5 to 10:30 p.m., Barlow, Sparrows, Archway, Middle State, Spud Dog, Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St., \$5. For more information, go to facebook.com/basement-transmissions or basement-transmissions.webs.com.

Eric Brewer & Friends CD Release Party
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

Hammerd
9 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

RadioActive Band
9 p.m., Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. For more information go to oasispub.net, or visit facebook.com/oasispuberie.

Steve Neylon Show
6:30 to 11 p.m., Basement

WEDS, MAR. 20

Funkin' Gonuts Feat. Born as DJ Shineomite
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

The Box Street Couture
10 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

G.G.U. Show
5:30 to 10:30 p.m., Bail Easy, Kleos, The Convallescene, Beyone Silence, Pathos Departure, 9mm Dental Plan. Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St., \$6. For more information, go to facebook.com/basement.transmissions or basement-transmissions.webs.com.

THURS, MAR. 21

Drips & Beats Hip Hop Against Violence
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

Taught by Nuns
10 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

FRI, MAR. 22

The Rickie Hopkins Trio
5:45 to 7:45 p.m., Feat. Artist Lena Logvina, Urraro Gallery. W. 12th St., For more information, call 455.62.40 or visit urraro.com

Grunge Monkey
10 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

Rachel Brooke
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

Moneyshot
9 p.m., Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. For more information go to oasispub.net, or visit facebook.com/oasispuberie.

B.T. Show
2 to 3 p.m., Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St., \$7. For more information, go to facebook.com/basement.transmissions or basement-transmissions.webs.com.

SAT, MAR. 23

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RadioActive Band
9 p.m., Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. For more information go to oasispub.net, or visit facebook.com/oasispuberie.

Steve Neylon Show
6:30 to 11 p.m., Basement

webs.com.
MON, MAR. 25

B.T. Show
5 to 9 p.m., Eddie Dol-drum, The Heel, The Hannigans, Teatime for 3, The Ladder Coins. Basement Transmissions, 1501 State St., \$5. For more information, go to facebook.com/basement.transmissions or basement-transmissions.webs.com.

SUN, MAR. 31

Open Mic & Jam
9 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

WEDS, APRIL 3

Ninety Miles
7:30 p.m., Mercyhurst University's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St., For more information contact the box office at 824.3000, or visit pac.mercyhurst.edu.

WEDS, MAR. 27

Break Free Wednesday presented by The Box
10 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

SUN, MAR. 24

The Vultures wsg/ The Couchriders
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

THURS, MAR. 28

Altared Mindset Supernova 1yr Anniversary
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

RIFT
10 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

FRI, MAR. 29

The Romantic Era
10 p.m., the crooked i, 1013 State St., For more information, go to facebook.com/thecrookedierie.

Bitchwax, Local 80, Kevlar, Hammersmith
9 p.m., Sherlocks, 508 State St. For more information go to facebook.com/sherlockspark-place, or call 453.7760.

Chrome
9 p.m., Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Road. For more information go to oasispub.net, or visit facebook.com/oasispuberie.

Laugh Riot Erie presents: Acting for Dancers
Saturdays, noon to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Rob Connick at 402.1144 or laughrioterie@gmail.com.

Laugh Riot Erie presents: Acting Workshops at Edinboro University
Sundays 1:30 to 3 p.m., For more information, contact Rob at 402-1144 or laughrioterie@gmail.com.

Noon Timer Toastmasters Club
Every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7 p.m., Keystone Business Service Center, 3823 W. 12th St. For more information, go to 6189.toastmastersclubs.org.

Civil War Roundtable
Every 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, 890 Liberty St., For more information, call Tom at 337.1966.

Jazz Erie Discussion Group
Every 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Erie Art Museum Annex, 10 E. Fifth St. For more information,

Transmissions, 1501 State St., \$7. For more information, go to facebook.com/basement.transmissions or basement-transmissions.webs.com.

Art, Music & Wine Happy Hour at Urraro Gallery
5 to 8 p.m., Every other Friday starting Feb. 8, Enjoy Live music, a featured monthly artist, and a wide range of wines to choose from Penn Shore's Wine Shop. 152 W. 12th St., For more information, call 455.62.40 or visit urraro.com

IBT Women Meets at Zodiac Diner
Every 2nd Sunday at 12 p.m., Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. 2516 State St., For more information, contact Laurie at 455.3543 or visit eriegaynews.com.

Erie Sisters Meets
Every 4th Saturday at 7 p.m., Local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. Unitarian Universalist Church, 7180 Perry Highway. For more information, call (440) 265.8191 or visit eriesisters.ning.com.

Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group
Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m., Community United Church, 1011 W. 38th St., For more information, call 864.4429 or visit ucwbsites.net/com-mucieriepa.html.

Ethnic Lunch & Learn: Hungarian
11:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning Institute at LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St., \$5 members/\$8 non-members. For more information call 453-5072 or visit www.lifeworkserie.org.

Al Stone Lecture Series presents: "The Impact of the Earned Income Tax Credit on Erie County"
9:30 a.m., Edinboro University's Diebold Center for Performing Arts, Al Stone Intergenerational Center. Free and open to the public. For more information, go to edinboro.edu.

Lunch and Lecture Series: Embracing Your Changing Role
12:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning Institute at LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St., Lunch and Lecture: \$8 members/\$10 non-members, includes lunch served at 11:30 a.m., Lecture Only: \$5 members/\$8 non-members. For more information call 453-5072 or visit www.lifeworkserie.org.

Watercolor for Beginners and Beyond
6 p.m. Lifelong Learning Institute at LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St., \$30 members/\$35 non-members per class, all supplies provided. For more information call 453-5072 or visit www.lifeworkserie.org.

EHCA's Spring Swing Kick Off Event
5 to 8 p.m., The Brewer at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St., Free and open to the public. For more information, go to ehca.org.

Open House at TREC

call 866.2731 or go to facebook.com/jazz-erie.

Indoor Walking Program
Sundays and Mondays at 6 p.m., Elk Valley High School, 2556 Maple Ave., \$0.50/pp. For more information, call 774.3519.

SAT, MAR. 23

Mercyhurst Preparatory School's MPS Grand
6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Mercyhurst Prep, 538 E. Grandview Blvd., \$20 incl. games, prize raffles, theme baskets, and silent auctions. For more information call 824.2161 or email tespin@mpslakers.com

SUN, MAR. 24

Star Wars Brunch at the Bel Aire
11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Meet the characters and come dressed as your favorite! Bel Aire, 2800 W. 8th St., \$25. For more information, visit Poets-Hall.org.

Painting on Canvas Classes at Claytopia
6 p.m. and Friday Mar. 29. Dandelions, Peacock Feather, Bird in Cage, Porcupine and Friend. Claytopia, 2503 W. 15th St., Ste 8; Cost: Large \$20 or \$25 and Small: \$15. For more information, visit heathercash.com/painting-classes.

TUES, MAR. 26

Candlelight Vigil in Support of Marriage Equality
7 p.m., Front of Erie Courthouse, 140 West Sixth St., For more information, visit me4pa.org or email ME4PA2@gmail.com.

Tai Chi
7 p.m., Whole Foods Cop, 1241 W. 26th St., Free to sign up at Customer Service. For more information go to http://www.wfcerie.coop.

FRI, MAR. 25

Cooking with the Italian Chef, Michael Farsace
6 p.m., Lifelong Learning Institute at LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St., \$45 member/\$55 non-members. For more information call 453-5072 or visit www.lifeworkserie.org

THURS, MAR. 21

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Open House at TREC

8 p.m., Learn about upcoming projects and volunteer opportunities.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. For more information, call 833.7424.

SAT, MAR. 23

Mercyhurst Preparatory School's MPS Grand
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9:30 a.m., Edinboro University's Diebold Center for Performing Arts, Al Stone Intergenerational Center. Free and open to the public. For more information, go to edinboro.edu.

Lunch and Lecture Series: Embracing Your Changing Role
12:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning Institute at LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St., Lunch and Lecture: \$8 members/\$10 non-members, includes lunch served at 11:30 a.m., Lecture Only: \$5 members/\$8 non-members. For more information call 453-5072 or visit www.lifeworkserie.org.

Watercolor for Beginners and Beyond
6 p.m. Lifelong Learning Institute at LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St., \$30 members/\$35 non-members per class, all supplies provided. For more information call 453-5072 or visit www.lifeworkserie.org.

EHCA's Spring Swing Kick Off Event
5 to 8 p.m., The Brewer at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St., Free and open to the public. For more information, go to ehca.org.

Open House at TREC

Raving About Ravioli
7 to 9 p.m., Frankie & May, 1101 Peninsula Drive, \$45/pp. For more information, call 836.0070 or visit frankieandmay.com/events.

SAT, MAR. 30

Book Signing with Shiela Gamble
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., author of "The HR Suite at Erie Technical" Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St., Free. For registration information, call 864.1565.

Lecture, Discussion, & Spoken World

ONGOING

Poets Anonymous: Community Poetry Reading
Thursdays at 5 p.m. The Erie Book Store, 915 State St. For more information, call 455.1018.

Poets' Hall events presents Friday Night Writes Weekly Open Mic
7 to 9 p.m., Poets' Hall: The International Fellowship of Poets and Spoken Word Artists, 1136 East Lake Road. For more information, visit Poets-Hall.org.

Poets' Hall events presents The Sunday Sessions Weekly Open Mic
3 to 5 p.m. Poets' Hall: The International Fellowship of Poets and Spoken Word Artists, 1136 East Lake Road. For more information, visit Poets-Hall.org.

John Nolen Project Conversation
Join CIVITAS and Back to Erie, Inc., For more information, go to johnnolenproject.com or BacktoErie@gmail.com.

Foodie Book Club
Third Monday's at 7 p.m., Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St., Free. For registration information, call 864.1565.

Weekly Writers Club
Tuesdays at 7 p.m., and Thursdays at 1 p.m., Christine Kern, Ph.D. and Eric Botts, BFA, will lead an open discussion titled "Let Your Words Dance and Play". Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St., \$30/month. Open to all genres and all levels of writers. For registration

You Ought to Know: Mishol Randolph

By: Matthew Flowers

Six-thousand and twenty-eight little bricks are stacked up around her. Like the dark water at the bottom of a well, she is surrounded – save for a tiny pinhole window to see the world. Inside, she sits on her springless jail bed, skinny and weathered, like a small sapling after a hard storm. And time is a frozen stream, snaking slowly beneath a long thin crown of ice. Aside from the bland transitions between institutionalized moments, she has nothing but the gauze – just a few inches too short for morbid utility – mummifying her abscessed arms. And a Bible.

For some, the Bible's stack of pages become a book of truth, and for others, it's simply a story

Mishol's life turned
into a simple routine:
30 days in jail, a
failed stint in rehab,
get high, back to the
hospital, repeat.

that can spark a guiding light out of the darkest times. However, there is another way to reach heaven, and those who take this windy road never realize it takes a long detour.

"I've been through hell," Mishol Randolph says, sitting back in her chair. "So why not believe in a god?" Sitting in Dress for Success Erie, a small white building on the corner of East 28th Street, Mishol is pretty and put together, and carries a certain air of success with her – which juxtaposes the story she tells from within the shop. The place is packed tight with professional women's clothing; some new, some used, but all free for the right persons in need of professional attire. There is nothing about Mishol that could hint towards her history: the people she's run with, the places she's run to, or her tribulations upon those stomping grounds.

"My mom was a single woman [when I] was growing up and she drank a lot – she wasn't around a lot – so I could run riot," she explains. With the house empty, there were no rules or restrictions. In combination with being the stereotypically ambitious, adventurous, and aggressive first-born, it wasn't long before Mishol found herself greeting trouble with open arms.

"He was a bad boy, and that attracted me," she says about her high-school sweetheart and father to her now 7-year-old daughter Baelyn. "The

next thing you know, I'm smoking weed, and then we were introduced to pills." She's referring to the surge of diverted pharmaceuticals that swept through Pennsylvania – not excluding Erie – in the early 2000s.

"We started selling them and making thousands of dollars a week, so I dropped out of school," she says, reflecting on her sophomore year of high school. There was money to be made in this new-found trade, but it wasn't long before curiosity got the best of her. "We're like, 'What is the big deal about these pills?' 'cause these pills were going for about \$60 each."

So with new shoes, a beat-up car, and an apartment, Mishol had a new sense of confidence that came with a pining to indulge.

"We tried them, and it was instantly heaven. It was a euphoria that I couldn't explain. I was hooked," she says. "And it was all downhill from there." The apartment Mishol and her boyfriend rented became a dangerous place; it was no longer a personal venue for adolescent mischief and young love, but a place for junkies, and the dregs of Erie to frequent. But despite new clientele, the bills were stacking up, and to boot, Mishol was going to be fending for another person soon. "Honest to God, the day I found out I was pregnant, I quit everything cold turkey."

She packed her bags and left, fleeing for her aunt's house in her white Buick Century, the engine knocking to breathe. With help, Mishol nipped the new habit in the bud, continuing her pregnancy totally clean.

But things hadn't even turned bad yet, Mishol insinuates, "The day I had [Baelyn] I had an epidural... They hit my spine. The next thing you know, [the doctors are prescribing] me Vicodin."

No longer a body worrying for two, Mishol started taking pills again, turning reckless, and going harder than ever. Surpassing what the doctor's prescriptions would allow, she took to the streets, finding what she needed and selling the rest to fuel her habit.

Two of the many fallacies that plague addicts are the notions of vigilance and, in a different vein, egocentrism. It is the times when these two erroneous beliefs are reckoned with that tend to be the darkest hours.

"There was a moment where I got what I needed and I had some extra [Klonopin] in my coat pocket." She continues after a brief quiver. "My daughter just started crawling around, and she went in my coat pocket, and she digested the two pills. I never will forget that moment where I'm holding her and I'm rushing her to the hospital and she's just telling me that she wants to go to sleep... It was the most terrifying moment of my entire life."

Baelyn was given charcoal at the hospital, and fortunately came out of the ordeal unscathed. But Mishol had a different outcome.

"I spent the night, [and] woke up to Children's Services tell me I had to leave the hospital without my daughter." At rock bottom, Mishol's habit

grew stronger, and soon she was introduced to heroin.

"That was like a touch of heaven, like God came down and touched me. That was the most beautiful feeling in the entire world," she explains in solemn voice. "I would do *anything* for that feeling."

Nearly a dozen overdoses ensued – Mishol waking up in the hospital, livid with the doctors who pulled her away from a permanent darkness. Mishol's life turned into a simple routine: 30 days in jail, a failed stint in rehab, get high, back to the hospital, repeat – until finally the fog lifted over this mired cycle.

Now at the threat of going down state – with a longer sentence – for repeatedly being caught selling drugs, as well as smuggling them into rehab, something clicked.

"I have a 5-year-old daughter," Mishol says she screamed to the judge. But what the judge said wouldn't stop ringing in her head, "You didn't care about her last week; why do you care about her today?"

After receiving sixty days in the hole – what seemed like an indefinite time to Mishol – she was given one phone call a week, a Bible, and surplus of time to think. "I called home. It was Baelyn's birthday and all she was doing was crying for me, saying that she wanted me. And knowing that I have years until I can even hold her," Mishol says, edging towards tears. "I finally hit *my* rock bottom."

When she returned to her quarters, there sat the book of thin pages and a permanent snapshot of Baelyn burned into her mind. She thought to herself, *If nothing changes, nothing changes*. She started reading the Bible, finding comfort in the scripture, and a euphoria that didn't come from a needle. "I honestly don't like religion – I'm more spiritual," she clarifies. "Religion has restrictions on God."

After 60 days in the hole, she began going to church in jail, working out in the courtyard, and planning her future beyond her square stone walls. Like Albert Einstein said, Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. So when Mishol's time was through in jail, she was determined not to be part of the revolving door, and decided to interview at the Mercy Center for Women [1039 E. 27th St.], her first step in trying something different.

She started fresh, learning the life skills she missed over the last near-decade. After the months past she was introduced to Mary Graziano, the program director for Dress for Success Erie and the Going Places Network presented by Wal-mart. Through these organizations, Mishol was able to make connections that were sincere and progressive. By working on the Junior Board for the Boys and Girls Club [1515 E. Lake Road] she met Owen McCormick, the Owner of the Erie BayHawks, and was able to land a job as an account executive.

But even with the past behind her, she wasn't out of the clear yet.

Some were unhappy with Mishol's newfound success. They even went as far as to email her co-workers and attach a copy of an article of Erie County's Most Wanted, with her name front



From hell and back, Mishol Randolph is someone You Ought to Know.

and center. Ascending from her mental faults, she finally caught a glimpse of light, and as she raised her head to feel the warmth, a blog was started about her. The forum detailed her addiction, her lack of qualifications, and down right bashed Mishol coldheartedly. NBA security was notified, and she received a call from them soon after. After she confirmed the sum of the allegations, her superiors were notified, but her merit and hard work saved her job.

While her past continues to haunt her, she is also moving forward into an amazing future. She volunteers her time on the Board of Advisors at the Boys & Girls Club of Erie and has plans to start her own organization for women. More recently and most notably she received a call from Joi Gordon, CEO of Dress for Success. Mishol went breathless as she was informed of her invitation to the "Something to Share Gala" at the Grand Hyatt in New York City as the Keynote Speaker. The event is beyond huge – tickets run \$500 – and is attended by some of the biggest names in every field: Vanessa Williams, Bobbi Brown [CEO Bobbi Brown Cosmetics], Cory Booker [Mayor of Newark, NJ], Chris Canty [Baltimore Ravens Defensive Lineman], Michael Phelps, Cindy Lieve [Editor-in-Chief, Glamour], Amy Astley [Editor-in-Chief, Teen Vogue], and so many more. Mishol will go and represent not only Erie, but Dress for Success, by speaking at the gala on April 11.

While she takes care of her little sister and daughter, Baelyn, in their new home, she lives by one simple rule, "If you can't handle my past, you don't deserve to be in my future."

Mishol's determination has allowed her a second chance at life, one she took very seriously. She has risen from the refuse of her addiction, forded the dragging currents of crime, to now find herself standing in the light she used to watch fade from behind a barred window. ■

Matthew Flowers can be contacted at mFlowers@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @MFlowersER.

[Cont. from 11] **JW:** Bad romantic comedies [laughs].

A lot of things shock me right now – that reviews don't matter anymore. You can get all terrible reviews and be the number one movie in America, which, I believe happened this week with that Oz movie. Good for them! I'm happy they know how to pull it off; I wish I knew how to pull it off [laughs].

But the things that shock me – it doesn't mean I like them. That's the difference – I wasn't trying to shock people, I was trying to make them laugh. But at the same time, now all the Hollywood movies try to shock you. I guess I tried to shock people when there were still taboos left that you couldn't do, and that's what my whole career was all about – making fun of those taboos. Today, Hollywood wants to do that. So I think it's kind of old hat, just to try to be shocking. And it's never funny – well, sometimes it is. "The Hangover" was funny; "Bridesmaids" was funny, that other bridesmaids movie was funny – what was that called? – that was funny too; there are two of them.

CV: But it's not just Hollywood, is it? Even down to the small screen, do you think reality television shows are somehow related to, or descended from your work?

JW: I think they are the exact opposite.

They ask you to feel superior to the people in them, to make fun of them, to look down on them; they're classist, whereas mine asked you to look up to the subject matter, be amazed at their taste. I'm secretly in awe of the people I make movies about; however, I always say to the ones who are watching reality TV, "the people who are in it get paid, and you're wasting your time, so who's the dumb one?"

I mean, I haven't seen it, but I like Honey Boo Boo better than the "Kardashians" or whatever their names are.

CV: It's tragic, like all the horror stories in the news on a daily basis that desensitize us to their tragedy. Do you think any of them are funny, like I do, or am I the only one?

JW: Today the New York Post's headline was – you know, the cannibal was convicted, the one that had all the fantasies...wait a minute, I have to ask Susan [his assistant]. The headline's really funny, hold on.

CV: I will.
[26 seconds pass]

JW: I can't find it. Hold on one minute. She's coming up the steps. It's a really funny headline about the cannibal. Hold on.

CV: All right.
[10 seconds pass]

JW: Yes, it's "Chopped Liver."

CV: Well done, Post, well done.

JW: Are they funny? They're horrible. But it's gallows humor, and the New York Post is the best place to read about them – just don't read their editorials.

CV: There was just a headline about that gang rape in India that referred to it as a "murder-cum-rape."

JW: Ohhhhhhhh no. The very best headline

they ever did – which I'm not going to give away because it's in my show – I'll tell you the best one if you come to see my show. The second best one they had was when Justin Bieber had those people who wanted to castrate him and they caught them, and the headline was "Just Nuts."

CV: I love it. Speaking of nuts, I love North Korea. They almost seem like some sort of fantastical creation from one of your movies.

JW: Who's the dead one?

CV: Kim Jong Il.

JW: He loved American musicals. I bet he loved "Hairspray."

CV: I would imagine; his western tastes were well-known – whiskey, the Chicago Bulls...

JW: I always wanted him to be Wilbur and we could get an Edna over there and they could do "Timeless to Me." So yes, North Korea, they just had that Dennis...

CV: Yeah, Rodman.

JW: Yes, they just had him over there. I love reading about them; I'm just glad I don't live there.

CV: Rodman's supposed to be going on vacation with Kim Jong Un this summer.

JW: Oh God. That's like Gerard Depardieu moving to Russia; maybe they all deserve it.

CV: So tell us what we can expect from the show.

JW: You can expect fashion, true crime, celebrities, movies, theater, journalism, amusement parks, how to open your own theater – I think it's a self-help lecture for people – for minorities who don't even fit in their own minority but have a good sense of humor. I don't want to limit my audience, but that would be my core audience.

Today, parents bring me their f---ed-up kids, if you want to know the truth. And that's amazing to me. It's like, I'm their last-ditch effort to

bond with them, and that's kind of touching.

CV: Hey, that's great, you know; it must be so much more meaningful to know that your work has an impact on peoples' lives like that.

JW: But when I was young, the parents called the cops on my work. So it's gotten better.

CV: Do you recall ever coming to this area before? You're going to be in Edinboro, but Erie is the "big city" around these parts.

JW: Yeah, I came in the '50s; my parents had friends who lived there. I've been doing these talks for 40 years; I might have been there, like at a college, but if I have, it hasn't been for a long time.

CV: This is kind of a big thing for us; we don't often get well-known, serious artists through here. Although this area is more progressive than most, we can still be a bit of a cultural backwater.

JW: What I've learned is, the people who come see me, there's cool people wherever you go, even if it's not a progressive place – because of the Internet. You don't have to leave home to be cool anymore. That's a radical concept. When I was young, if you didn't go to New York or L.A., you could never see movies – you couldn't see anything, really. Now, everybody sees everything in one second.

CV: No more fax machines.

JW: I have a fax machine still, and I'll tell you when it comes in handy – when the power goes out. It's the only line that works. Every once in a while I'll still use it.

CV: And when you come to Edinboro, will you be hitchhiking to the venue?

JW: No, I won't be. But if I had to, I always know I could.

John Waters will perform his "This Filthy World" show on Thursday, April 4 in the Louis C. Cole Memorial Auditorium on the campus of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The show is for mature audiences. The doors open at 7:30 p.m.; the performance begins at 8:30. Because tickets are free for Edinboro University of Pennsylvania students, this show will most certainly sell out; purchase yours for \$10 at www.EdinboroTickets.com now, or risk being turned away the night of the show.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

6	8			7				5
			1					
	7	1	8			2		
8		9						
	2	4		5	9			
			2					
			5					8
				9	6			
4	5	2	7	1				9

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆☆☆

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Voice of America (abbr.)
- 4 Shake
- 7 Yorkshire river
- 10 Tire
- 11 Adopted son of Mohammed
- 12 Madam
- 14 Building (abbr.)
- 15 Feud
- 17 But (Lat.)
- 18 Let
- 19 Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
- 20 Italic (abbr.)
- 22 Tip
- 24 Imitation
- 27 Health (Fr.)
- 31 Maple genus
- 32 Compass direction
- 34 Nipple
- 35 Jewish month
- 37 Native
- 39 Laughter

sounds

- 41 Priest (Sp.)
- 42 Marsh
- 45 Atomic
- physicists
- 47 Limited (abbr.)
- 50 Huntress
- 52 River into the Yellow Sea
- 53 Leek
- 54 Hebrew letter
- 55 In the matter of (2 words)
- 56 Absolute (abbr.)
- 57 Carbohydrate (suf.)
- 58 Gamble

DOWN

- 1 Valley
- 2 Eld (2 words)
- 3 School course (abbr.)
- 4 Spear
- 5 Title of Athena
- 6 Wash

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	C	I	J	A	D	E	A	C	E	A
O	E	C	O	T	I	C	H	O	R	A
R	D	A	K	A	N	T	E	N	N	A
B	E	L	I	E	O	L	A	F		
			T	R	E	K	E	D	I	L
S	O	R	S	D	U	M	A	N	O	D
A	G	E	R	A	D	O	N	E	L	I
P	E	D	A	M	O	K	A	D	A	T
A	E	S	O	P	S	E	A	N		
			T	R	E	T	G	E	E	S
A	P	O	D	A	B	I	R	U	C	A
L	A	N	E	A	A	R	E	C	A	N
A	C	E	R	L	A	C	E	H	B	O

- 7 Uncle (Scot.)
- 8 Glut
- 9 Shak. shrew
- 10 Public Broadcasting Service (abbr.)
- 13 Son of (Scot.)
- 16 Tooth (Lat.)
- 18 Sp. article

- 21 Father of Abraham
- 23 Stamping machine
- 24 Fortify
- 25 Here (Fr.)
- 26 Compass direction
- 28 Threadlike
- 29 Indo-Chin. people
- 30 List-ending abbreviation
- 33 Encircled area
- 36 Calif. wine country
- 38 Drunk driving (abbr.)
- 40 Saint (Sp.)
- 42 Exclamation
- 43 Great Barrier island
- 44 Dress
- 46 Eight days after feast
- 48 Pastry
- 49 Female deer
- 51 Pounds (abbr.)
- 52 Freedom, briefly

	1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	
10					11				12			13
14					15			16				
17				18						19		
		20	21				22		23			
24	25					26		27		28	29	30
31					32		33		34			
35					36		37		38			
			39		40		41					
42	43	44		45		46				47	48	49
50				51						52		
53						54				55		
						56				58		

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A29

ERIE'S EATS

American Fusion

AVANTI'S If you've only eaten breakfast at Avanti's, you are in for a big surprise. Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, this daytime diner changes over to a fine dining establishment. Check back often since the menu changes weekly. BYOB

1662 W. 8th St. // 456.3096

SUMMER HOUSE CAFE With an ever-changing menu and lots of fresh baked goodies, this local favorite serves breakfast and lunch daily and stays open for dinner Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. BYOB

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

1201 KITCHEN Featuring Latin/Asian-inspired food, this hip downtown spot is full of great art, and the marble bar is a perfect place to try their fresh sushi. With a menu that changes every four to six weeks, be sure to check in often.

1201 State St. // 464.8989

UNDER THE CLOCK - Located in the historic Boston Store, Under the Clock is reviving the old phrase "Let's meet under the clock." With a "sophisticated casual"-style restaurant experience, Under the Clock offers lunch and dinner menus with something for everyone. The steak salad is a must-try for any self-respecting carnivore. Looking for something lighter? Try their seared ahi tuna.

101 Boston Store Place // 454.4700

American

PLYMOUTH TAVERN An Erie institution with great food and drink specials every night of the week.

1109 State St. // 453.6454

PUFFERBELLY Set in a decommissioned firehouse, the Pufferbelly is full of artifacts from Erie's fire fighting past.

414 French St. // 454.1557

CALAMARI'S Extra-long bar, with a large outdoor patio for those warm summer nights.

1317 State St. // 459.4276

Barbecue

THREE-B SALOON Beer, Bacon & Barbecue—the name says it all. Featuring slow-cooked brisket, ribs, and other down-home favorites. If you behave yourself, you may get a free slice of bacon with your beer.

732 W. 4th St. // 451.0007

Breakfast

SUMMER HOUSE CAFE Open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day of the week, the Summer House Cafe serves

up some of Erie's more unique breakfast and lunch options. Their breakfast burrito is a must-try, but be sure to check in for fresh daily specials.

2605 Washington Ave. // 452.2500

JO'S BROOKLYN BAGELS A walk through the door says it all. Well, at least it's speaking to your noise. Inhale deeply and breathe in those aromas. Fresh bagels and coffee. What's not to love about that combination? A little piece of Brooklyn right here in Erie.

833 W. 38th St. // 520.6246

PEGGY'S RESTAURANT A landmark in the Liberty Plaza for a few decades now, Peggy's serves up quick, affordable meals and plenty of room for conversation. You can sit at the long counter that spans nearly the entire restaurant, grab a booth up front, or get a table in the back.

3512 Liberty St. // 866.3216

THE BREAKFAST PLACE Low prices and big portions—just the way Erie likes it! The Cajun eggs are a must-try.

2340 E. 38th St. // 825.2727

PANOS Open late night with an attentive wait staff who will never let your coffee mug go empty. Try the famous Greek omelet.

1504 W. 38th St. // 866.0517

SIDEWALK CAFE Tucked away on historic North Park Row, you'll find one of downtown's popular breakfast and lunch places.

26 N. Park Row // 455.0002

GEORGE'S With retro decor trimmed in red and black, George's is known just as much for looking like a retro diner as it is for the friendly safe and great grub. They're famous for their mashed potatoes, but don't get stuck on only that. Try the soups and sandwiches on for size too.

2614 Glenwood Park Avenue // 455.0860

DOMINICK'S Famous among Erie's late-night bar patrons who swear by this place as a sure-fire hangover cure.

123 E. 12th St. // 456.6891

HYATT'S - Serving up breakfast and lunch standards for years and is a staple in the West Erie Plaza.

928 W. Erie Plaza // 456.0102

FLIP CAFE Tired of the chain restaurant dishing out breakfast by the numbers? Then try this sweet little spot tucked away in Edinboro. Flip Cafe serves breakfast and lunch from morning 'til afternoon, so stop in and try any one of the favorites, including "Flip Bread." You won't pay much and you'll go home happy thinking about coming back again.

103 Meadville St. Edinboro

// 734.3400

Brewpub

BREWERY Erie's only brew-on-premise pub and eatery, the Brewery is on a mission to, "Revitalize Downtown Erie One Pint at a Time."

123 W. 14th St. // 454.2200

Caribbean

PIEAPPLE EDDIE Southern regional cuisine served up with a bit of Caribbean flair. Featuring savory dishes like Creole shrimp and andouille sausage over grits, seared catfish served with rice and beans and fresh sauteed vegetables, and grilled Angus Rib Eye steak. Deserts include grilled pound cake served w/fresh glazed pineapple, ice cream and rum sauce, and luscious lime layer cake. BYOB.

1402 W. 10th St. // 454.0700

Chinese

GOLDEN WOK Quality ingredients, affordable prices, and consistent service make this Chinese restaurant stand out among the rest.

3202 Pitt. Ave. // 836.9657

Delicatessens

TERESA'S ITALIAN DELI

Teresa's Deli has been a staple in Erie for over 60 years, and it's no secret why. Now in its third generation, the Theresa's staff still makes the food fresh every day, following the same scratch recipes used since 1949.

3201 Greengarden Blvd. // 864.5322 and 810 E. 38th St. // 459.1145

PICASSO'S With signature panini-style sandwiches like the Lee Roslyn (Twinkie, ham, and cheese) and the DaVinci (sausage, ravioli, and provolone), Picasso's is a must-try. Great vegetarian options available.

2060 Interchange Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 866.1183

TICKLE'S DELI - This popular deli features good prices and big, tasty sandwiches including the famous "Big Freddy." Call ahead if you can because this downtown hotspot gets busy at lunchtime.

17 W. 4th St. // 455.5718

GERRY'S 8TH STREET DELI From the world-class deli to the homemade soups, Gerry's offers everything you'd expect from a deli. But with sandwich names like "Cluckmeister," "Chive Turkey," "Tongue Fu," and "Breast of Times" just to name a few, you're going to want to keep going back to check out all of these one-of-a-kind sandwiches. Deli hours run Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2620 W. 8th St. // 836.8702

French

BERTRAND'S BISTROT A menu featuring local meats and vegetables and organic and Kosher ingredients when possible. The crepes and award-winning wine selection are more than enough to encourage a trip to France via downtown Erie.

18 N. Park Row // 871.6477

Gastropubs

JECKYL & HYDES - Just like the title characters—wait, character—this gastropub seems bent on being two things at once—and that's a good thing. While the seating area is small, which makes for a cozy experience, the tastes are big and bold.

8 E. 10th St. // 456.0072

Irish

MOLLY BRANNIGANS - Got a hankering for bangers and mash? Have no idea what the heck bangers and mash is? Head to this authentic Irish gastropub where you can get your fill of Irish-ness and Irish drinks. From Jameson to Guinness, from Shepherd's Pie to Purcell's Fish and Chips, Molly Brannigans brings the Irish pub to downtown Erie.

506 State St. // 453.7800

MCGARREY'S OAKWOOD CAFE Known for the award-winning Reuben, McGarrey's believes in big portions of comfort food served up hot and fresh. Although Irish in name, McGarrey's also dishes out American and Italian cuisine so that you're bound to find something satisfying.

1624 W. 38th St. // 866.0552

Italian

ALTO CUCINA Chef Pat Rodgers mixes the old-world with the exotic. Beautiful décor, with an outdoor deck for the summer months.

3531 W. Lake Road // 835.3900

COLAO'S Authentic Italian, fresh seafood, and a cozy, intimate setting.

2826 Plum St. // 866.9621

MI SCUZI Southern Italian cuisine with fresh, homemade pasta.

2641 Myrtle St. // 454.4533

AMICI RISTORANTE With dinner hours from 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and a takeout menu available Monday through Saturday, Amici Ristorante dishes out fresh food at affordable prices. From wings to pizza to fresh perch sandwiches and more, the menu has something for everyone. Call ahead one hour for takeout since food is prepared fresh per order.

1518 Walnut St. // 455.0041

Japanese

SUSHI AND ASIAN CUISINE Fresh sushi and sashimi steal the spotlight of this show but their supporting cast shouldn't go unnoticed. The Kim Chi is a great place to start and any of the noodle choices make for good choices to continue on. With veggie-friendly options and a staff happy to serve you, Sushi and Asian Cuisine is a must.

1014 State St. // 455.0596

AOYAMA Think it's hard to find a daily sushi bar in Erie? Find your way to Aoyama for the hibachi experience combined with an extensive sashimi and sushi menu. You'll have the choice between hibachi-style seating and the traditional sit-down dining experience, so your mood can do the choosing for you. Reservations are highly suggested.

970 Millcreek Mall // 868.7999

HIBACHI From flinging shrimp to slinging steak, Hibachi combines dinner with the show without service charges or ticket fees. If you're fine with sitting beside your date instead of across from him or her, opt for this straight-off the grill without time-to-chill dinner experience.

3000 W. 12th St. // 838.2495

Mediterranean

PETRA Open since 2004, Petra serves as Erie's window to the Eastern Mediterranean. The folks at Petra want you to have "a unique culinary experience." And with Mediterranean-inspired items on the menu you're unlikely to find anywhere else, this is a one of a kind dining experience.

3602 W. Lake Road // 838.7197

Mexican

EL TORO LOCO With a full bar and the best margaritas in town, there is something for everyone. Enjoy a little taste of Mexico right here in downtown Erie.

333 State St. // 454.5626

LATINO'S With fresh ingredients and a commitment to serving up the authentic Mexican-cuisine experience, Latinos is the place to go for more than just the average Tex-Mex experience. The place isn't flashy, but with food this good, it doesn't have to be.

1315 Parade St. // 452.1966

EL CANELO With three locations to serve the greater-Erie area, you're never more than a 15 minute drive from all the chips and salsa you can handle served up with sizzling fajitas, hand-wrapped enchiladas and burritos, and a whole lot more. The Super Crab Quesadilla is a must-try that

won't break the bank but will definitely stretch your belt.

2709 W. 12th St. // 835.2290 and 4236 Peach St. // 860.8187 and 4459 Buffalo Rd. // 898.1531

MOE'S With friendly staff serving up fresh, made-to-order southwest fare, Moe's is a great place for quality, on-the-go Mexican food.

2052 Edinboro Rd. (Outside Millcreek Mall) 459.2121

Middle Eastern

CASABLANCA From traditional to modern recipes, from strictly vegetarian meals to meals centered around a choice selection of fresh meat, Casablanca Grille looks to provide something for everyone looking for a good Moroccan meal—and the diversity's a good thing too since when it comes to Middle East Mediterranean cuisine, Casablanca is it. Reservations are recommended.

2174 W. 8th St. // 452.4544

PALM MARKET AND DELI

This authentic Arabic market and eatery offers delicious, freshly prepared food and baked goods for a very reasonable price. The market offers a wide variety of exotic food and merchandise.

2702 Parade St.

Pizza

PAPA JOE'S With specialty pizzas ranging from "Vegan Demise" to "Chicken Gorgonzola" and subs that go by the names of "Enchanted Eggplant" and "Chuck Norris," Papa Joe's brings more to the table than any commercial pizza joint. And to boot, they serve up a mean falafel sandwich—something that's a must.

3826 W. Ridge Rd. // 835.3360

VALERIO'S More than just Pizza, Wings, and Subs! Local Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria that has been serving Erie County for over 17 years. Offering a variety of Homemade Italian Dinners, Seafood, Daily Lunch Specials, and Catering Services. Check out our menus online at www.valeriospizzeria.com. With 3 convenient locations to serve you, we'll have you singing...Manga Italiano!

2179 W. 32nd St. // 833-2979 and 1803 E. 38th St. 825-2693 and 724 Powell 833-8884 // Catering Office// 866-3193

STEEL 12 Jonesing for some Pittsburgh eats but don't have four hours to kill on a roundtrip just for some grub? Hit up this Peach-Street eat for fries on your sandwich and a pizza crust that can't be beat. But if yinz are really looking for a chal-

Vegetarian

WHOLE FOODS CAFE Offering a wide variety of vegetarian staples, including wraps, sandwiches, soups, pizza, and seasonal specialties.

24 N. Park Row // 455.1072

1341 W. 26th St. // 456-0282

Suds and Grub

U PICK 6 TAP HOUSE Great beer meets great food at the corner of Fourth and State streets. From gourmet flatbreads to pizza muffins, there's plenty of great grub to pair with the endless flow of over 20 microbrews on tap. And with helpful servers who know their beer, this is a great place to come to try the beers you've never had but have always wanted to.

333 State St. // 520.5419

SIX PACK HOUSE OF BEER With an ever-changing lineup of brews on tap and cooler wall of six-packs to go, Six Pack also serves up some cheap eats to boot.

847 Pitt. Ave. // 454.1989

U PICK 6 BEER STORE Off the downtown beaten path, U Pick 6 takes pride in its revolving draft beer lineup. With some quick eats and sandwiches sliced up right in front of you, U Pick 6 draws you in for the beer and keeps you for the conversation.

7520 Peach St. // 866.2337

Steakhouse

SENSORY 3 Next time you're at Presque Isle Downs & Casino, take a break from the table games and check out this bar and grille. If you're cashing in your chips for fine dining, we bet on being satisfied by a fine steak since Sensory 3 serves up some of the best cuts in the area.

8199 Perry Hwy // 866.8359

COLONY PUB & GRILLE - Multiple fireplaces and three intimate dining rooms make the Colony a popular spot for a romantic dinner.

2670 W. 8 St. // 838.2162

RICARDO'S Opened in 1943 by two brothers, Ricardo's serves up some of Erie's finest steaks. Chef Peter West and Cathy Merks run one of Erie's choice restaurants that's known for its hand-cut, grain-fed western beef and delicious, mouth-watering ribs cooked outside year-round. Hearty Italian fare with casual feel of fine dining make Ricardo's a must.

2112 E. Lake Rd // 455.4947

VICTOR'S - Located inside the Bel-Aire hotel, Victor's offers fine steak and seafood with drink specials every night of the week.

2800 W. 8 St. // 833.1116

Thai

KHAO THAI The only full-time Thai restaurant in Erie. Luckily, it's fantastic! Try the drunken noodles for a spicy delight. Vegetarian friendly. BYOB

36 N. Park Row // 454.4069

Wings

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Fourteen original sauces and loads of televisions make BWW a great place to meet friends for the big game. Full bar menu available.

Interchange Road (Across from Millcreek Mall) 868.9464

ODIS 12 Award-winning wings and affordable sit-down dining. Odis 12 features over 100 different flavors, including the crowd-favorite "ugly cousin."

664 W. 26th St. // 452.6347

GREENGARDEN TAVERN

Classic corner bar atmosphere, great prices, excellent wings. Honey-hot barbecue and cranch are standouts. Go Browns!

1543 W. 8th St. // 454.3367

PARK TAVERN - Known for its wings, the Park Tavern boasts a family-friendly smoke-free environment. Try some Herbies or crispy Cajuns. Buffalo Cajun is also recommended.

4205 E. Lake Road // 899.8661

Sweet Treats

MIGHTY FINE DONUTS If you love donuts and are looking for something off the well-worn path to Dunkin' Donuts and Krispy Kreme, this local gem is your destination spot. Heralded by locals as the best donuts ever

2612 Parade St. // 455.6408

ROMOLO CHOCOLATES

Tony Stefanelli apprenticed with his family in the chocolate business for nearly 20 years. Where'd that get him? He's one of only 26 master confectioners and he's right here in Erie. So for hand-made pieces of chocolate, be sure to stop by Romolo's—then boast to your out-of-town friends about having a master confectioner in your city.

1525 W. 8th St. // 452.1933

PULAKOS George P. Pulakos opened his first chocolate shop at 926 State St. in 1903. Over a hundred years later, the fourth-generation-run chocolate shop is still one of Erie's favorite places for a wide selection of all things chocolate—and other delicious snacks too.

2530 Parade St.

DONUT CONNECTION - Just off the corner of Peach and Liberty streets sits a family-owned donut shop that's celebrating its Golden Anniversary this year. With the "best coffee" in town and a wide selection of delicious hand-cut donuts, this is a great place for a sweet treat.

3842 Liberty St. // 864.8702

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