

December 2007



EGN

Erie Gay News



Men's Greet 'n Chat

by Michael Mahler

The new men's monthly social week night group is off to a great start! We will next be getting together on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 7 PM at Dominick's, 123 E 12th St, Erie PA. We will also be getting together on Thursday, Dec. 27, location to be announced next issue. Hope that you can join us for either/both get together! For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com

Womynspace getting together again

from Womynspace

The October Womynspace gathering brought five women out to Chovy's in Meadville. They plan to continue getting together, with tentative plans for another get-together in January and a Valentine's event in February. Information: contact: Jenn. Phone: (814) 673-5836. Visit <http://womynspace.eriegaynews.com>.

You're Invited to Come on OUT!

by Brian

A new monthly social networking group for the regional GLBT community is being launched Thursday, Nov. 29, with a Trivia Night at the Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St., Erie.

Come on OUT! offers the GLBT community an opportunity to get together in a social setting, have fun and make new friends. Trivia Night will run from 7-9 PM and the dinor will be open for this event only. Desserts and beverages will be available for purchase. Interested participants can bring their own team of four or come solo and be paired up with others to form teams of four. All teams will have a maximum of four members, and prizes will be awarded to the winners.

In the coming months, Come on OUT! will be sponsoring a variety of events. Possible activities include group movie nights, bowling, attending sporting

(continued on page 4)

The Justice League teamed up at Halloween in Erie!

From left to right: Hawkman (Daniel Thomas), Aquaman (Levi), Wonder Girl (Mistress Vanitee), Ion (Erik), Wonder Woman (Season), Martian Manhunter (Jim), Superman (Kevin Schultz), Batman (Chris), Green Lantern (Gabriel), Green Arrow (above) (Drew Cadispoti), Cyborg (Troy), Black Canary (Kimmie). More photos on page 19 and on the EGN website. Photo by Erica.



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**Classified Ads are now
available for as little as \$10
for 30 words!
See website for more info.**



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

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
**Deadline for next issue: Dec 10 (Monday),
 will be out night of Tuesday, Dec 18.**

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

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

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

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



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

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

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.
 Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.
 All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.



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

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EVE

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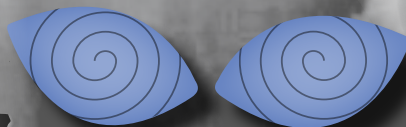
DJ Jason G. spins this year's countdown
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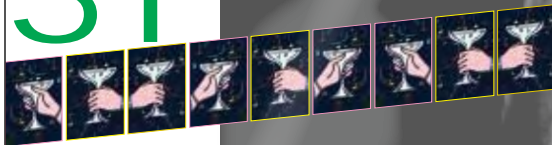
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Community News

(continued from front page)

events, wine tasting, shopping excursions and more. Other ideas are always welcome from participants. Come on OUT! and share your ideas.

For more information, call Brian at 1-888-749-7073 (toll free). Come on OUT! is being presented in co-operation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie's new GLBT community organization.

Charity Snowflake 5K Run/Walk

from Erie Runners Club

The fourth annual Charity Snowflake 5K Run/Walk will take place this year on Saturday, Dec. 8, beginning at 10 AM at Presque Isle State Park. The race course starts and ends in front of the Rotary Pavilion. Sponsored by the Erie Runners Club and Silkscreen Unlimited, this year's event will benefit SafeNet, Greater Erie Habitat for Humanity, L'Arche of Erie, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Erie and Muscular Dystrophy of Erie. For further information about the Snowflake 5K Run/Walk, call Dan Albaugh of the Erie Runners Club

at (814) 774-3209, or e-mail at dana@erie-runnersclub.org. You can also visit the Erie Runners Club web site: www.erie-runnersclub.org.

SafeNet needs cell phones and answering machines

from SafeNet

SafeNet: Domestic Violence Safety Network is in need of used cell phones and working used answering machines for use by our clients.

If you have these items and would like to donate, please take them to SafeNet, 1702 French Street, Erie, PA.

Youngstown area mailing list

from Mahoning Pride Center

If you live in the Youngstown area, note that the Youngstown Pride Center is now the Mahoning Valley Pride Center. To get on their mailing list, send a request to their new email address at mahoningvalleypridecenter@yahoo.com

Their mailings include information on GLBT activities and events in the Youngstown-Warren area.

Farewell to the Roadhouse Theatre

By Michael Mahler

On Thursday, Nov. 15, the Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art closed after having been active in the arts scene for almost 20 years. During that time, they had presented quite a few GLBT themed works and had been very supportive of the community. When bad weather threatened the 2nd Pride Rally in 1999, the Roadhouse was offered as a backup venue. The final presentation at the Roadhouse was a showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, a cult classic movie that is beloved by many GLBT people. The Roadhouse will be greatly missed!



**EARLY DEADLINE FOR
NEXT ISSUE:
DECEMBER 10**

To all of you...

Seasons Greetings!

from
all of
us at

EGN
Erie Gay News



Calendar

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

Nov 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance Set aside. www.gender.org/remember/day/

Nov 21 - Pre Thanksgiving Karaoke and Long Islands! at Trance Night Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Join your friends, family, and DJ Zach for an amazing night out at Erie's alternative karaoke nightspot! It's time to get your vocal on! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Nov 21 - Family Reunion at the Zone! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Everyone is coming home for the Thanksgiving Holiday! Catch up with old friends and family for a Wednesday night of dancing and fun at the Zone! Kitchen is open from 8 PM to 2 AM with 2-for-1 Wing Madness! Happy Hour 9 PM -11 PM. Dance to your favorite videos all night long! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Day at the Zone! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. We open at 8 PM. Join us for an after-

dinner drink and dance off all those extra calories! Happy Thanksgiving from the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 23 - Disco Party at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM. Flashback to all your favorite disco hits. Special performance by Buddy Dobson "Glow sorcerer." Disco Lemonade, drink specials, and free Glowsticks! Happy hour 9 PM til 11 PM. Sound and lighting by DJ Lori. Martini bar opens early at 4 PM! (Rear Entrance) Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Nov 24 - Brokeback Bunkhouse Party- Boots and Boxers Night at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Yee Haw! Back by popular demand! We want to see what real cowboys wear under their Wranglers! Guys-- wear cowboy shirts, boxers, long-johns, leather chaps, and boots. Ladies-- get out your daisy-dukes and bandanas for some boot-scootin' fun! Don't worry you can leave yer' wranglers on if yer' a mite bit shy! Grab your cowboy hat, round up the posse', and get into the

Do you know the signs of an abusive relationship?

- ☐ Does "IT'S HIS/HER WAY OR THE HIGHWAY" apply to the relationship?
- ☐ Does one partner get blamed for everything that goes wrong? "IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!"
- ☐ Is the relationship full of put downs and disparaging comments?
- ☐ Is jealousy off the charts?
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These are just a few of the signs that a relationship is on its way to devastating intimate partner violence. Learn more!



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Calendar

Zone Saloon for a night of two-steppin' and FUN!
Save a Horse... Ride a Cowboy! Phone: (814) 452-0125.
Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 27 - Men's Greet 'n Chat At Dominick's, 123 E 12th St, Erie. 7 PM. Monthly week night social group for gay/bi men. All are welcome! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@erie-gaynews.com. Web: <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Nov 29 - Come on OUT! New regional GLBT social group, Trivia Night, 7-9 PM, Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St. Everyone welcome. Contact Brian at (888) 749-7073.

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day See p. 18 for area events.

Dec 1 - Mahoning Valley Pride Center Holiday Party (Youngstown) 6pm at Bears Den cabin in Mill Creek Park, Youngstown OH. Info: (330)747-7433

Dec 2 - 'The Recalling' World AIDS Day Fundraiser at Trance Night Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM - 2 AM. Boxer Fashion show, guest performers, DJ BlackCat, DJ Dart, DJ Dexter, and Live Musical

Guest "Trece." Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Dec 5 - SafeNet's Annual Holiday Open House At SafeNet, 1702 French St, Erie, PA. 4 PM - 7 PM. RSVP to Kathy Clinger-Smith at (814) 455-1774 extension 249. Browse to www.safenerie.org.

Dec 7 - Denise Russell Holiday Show at the Zone! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Your Favorite funny lady is back for a great Holiday Show! Get here early!... tables fill up fast! Holiday humor, songs and FUN! Phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Dec 8 - RETRO 80's Flashback at Trance Night Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 10 PM. Trivia and chances to win cool prizes. Cut loose to the best of 80's Music Videos. Get FUNKY and wild! You'll be Doin' Da' Butt all night long with DJ Rob! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Web: www.trancenightclub.com.

Dec 9 - Rainbow Elders Christmas program (Buffalo) All your favorite holiday foods and friends.

(continued on page 9)

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Calendar

Christmas cards for Persons with AIDS. Come celebrate! Rainbow Elders is a social group for mature gay men and women and their friends. Info: Danny: 716-881-7234. email: rainbow_elders_of_the_niagara_fr@yahoo.com

Dec 10 - RETRO 90's Flashback at Trance Night Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Dance to your favorite 90's Club and R&B dance hits. 90's Trivia contest and mini Flashback Drag Show with host Buffy Lynn Hayes. Prizes/Give-aways DJ Jason G keeps you on the floor with the hottest of the 90's and today's hits! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Dec 15 - Santa's Naughty or Nice Underwear and Pajama Party at Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Santa Claus is coming to the ZONE! Show Santa how Naughty or Nice you have been this year by wearing FUN Christmas boxers, Hot underwear, Sexy lingerie, or warm fuzzy PJ's! Santa will be handing out gifts to those that participate and coal to those who don't! Show off your Big Package and come be a Ho Ho Ho! Show Santa how bad you have been! - Happy Holidays from everyone at the ZONE! Phone: (814) 452-0125.

Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Dec 21 - Santa Baby! Diva's Holiday Show! at Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Stand in line because the Divas of the Zone are about to give you a Holiday kiss under the mistletoe! Did I see Miss Erie kissing Santa Claus? Join us for a sexy night of entertainment, but get here early—tables fill up fast! : (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Dec 22 - Jingle Bells - Zone's Christmas Party! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. The elves are done decorating and it's a North Pole Christmas at the Zone! Santa Claus will be handing out gifts and surprises! Play a few Reindeer Games or try our special Holiday Shots, and dance the night away on our Video Dance floor! Join your friends and Santa's Elves for a night of dancing and fun! Did I hear sleigh bells up on the Zone roof? Happy Holidays from everyone at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Dec 22 - Naughty or Nice at Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 10 PM. We're bringing back Host Jamie Lynn and Akashia for a show featuring the FINEST in local drag entertainment. Dare play Jamie's "Naughty or Nice" contest? Prizes and tons of laughter and fun! Don't miss out on this spectacular holiday event! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Dec 24 - 'Twas the Night before Christmas College night at Trance Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Drag show and Dance Party. Performance by your favorite house cast with special guest performers. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve at the Zone! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 8 PM. The shopping is done!, Stop in for some fun! We open at 8pm - Zone kitchen is open till 2 AM! - 2 for 1 Wing Madness! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Dec 25 - Christmas Day at the Zone! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. We will be open at 8:00 for a relaxing night with friends and family. (Or a chance to slip away and have some real fun!) Happy Holidays from the Zone! (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.



the Rural AIDS Alliance

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

For more information, contact:

Erie Office: 1001 State St. Suite 703
Renaissance Centre Erie, PA 16501
814-456-8849 or 1-800-400-2437

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

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

Calendar

com.

Dec 27 - Men's Greet 'n Chat (LOCATION TBA) 7 PM. Monthly week night social group for gay/bi men. All are welcome! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Dec 31 - 'Crystal Ball' at Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. 8 PM. Countdown your 2008 at Alternative Erie's BIGGEST and HOTTEST Premier Party Spot! DJ Jason G spins this year's countdown with the BEST of 2007's dance hits with funky flashbacks! Ice Luge – Champagne – Party Favors – Free Food Buffet – Prizes Give aways – and more! Doors open at 8 PM so get here early!! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Web: www.trancenightclub.com.

Dec 31 - Zone's New Years Eve Blast! Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie. Celebrate the New Year with your friends at our last big BLAST of the year!... and you know we know how to throw a party! Join us for Erie's Biggest Gay New Year's Eve Blast! Champagne toast! Buffet! Party Favors! Countdown on the Video Dancefloor! We'll be popping corks at midnight - to toast in the new year, new friends, and new fun for 2008 at the ZONE! - Thank you and Happy New Year from your friends at the ZONE! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jan 19- Dance with Rainbow Elders and Lesbian Women's Social Group (Buffalo) At Unity Church 1243, Delaware Ave., 9PM-2AM, admission \$6. No Alcohol. Pop, snacks, Chinese Auction, DJ Dancing. Info: Danny: 716-881-7234.

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The Second Harvest Food Bank presented a Bread Board of Honor Award on October 17 at Second Harvest's annual luncheon. The award was presented to recognize the wonderful generosity of the people who donated food at this year's Pride Picnic. We all pitched in to help our community!
- Mike Mahler

**Tuesday,
November 27th
at 7 PM**

**Men's
Greet 'n Chat**

**at
Dominick's
Eatery**

123 E. 12th St, Erie, PA

Monthly week night social group
for gay/bi men. All are welcome!
Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone:
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On Stage

Selected performances of possible interest to GLBT audiences.


Nov 25 - Tegan & Sara Cleveland, OH House Of Blues www.hob.com www.teganandsara.com/

Dec 8 - Renaissance City Choirs 2007 Holiday Concert 2007 at East Liberty Presbyterian Church (ELCP), Pittsburgh www.rccpittsburgh.org

Dec 15-16 - North Coast Men's Chorus presents "Swingle Bells" in Lakewood OH at Lakewood Civic Auditorium. Holiday classics with a jazzy beat.

Jan 3 - Rufus Wainwright in Pittsburgh. Rufus will be performing solo. Opener: Lucy Wainwright Roche. Carnegie Music Hall www.rufuswainwright.com/

Jan 25-26 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus presents "The Proud and the Passionate" in Buffalo at UU Church of Buffalo (1/25) and Temple Beth Zion



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Java Buzz

Eclectic Etceteras

118 Erie St., Edinboro, PA www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse
We are in the process of organizing open jam sessions during the December-January holiday season! Let us know if you and your friends are interested!!!

Nov 23 from 6-8 PM Tiger Maple String Band

Nov 24 from 1-3 PM TBA

Nov 30 from 5-7 PM The Grainy Throat

Dec 1 from 1-3 PM Brad Yoder

Dec 7 from 5-7 PM Tom Link



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<http://gayyellowpages.com>

Intermezzo Coffeehouse

12 Park Place, Fredonia, NY (716)672.6070 Fredonia NY
www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com

Intermezzo Coffeehouse is proud to periodically showcase the talent of area musicians. There is no cover charge. Watch flyers posted in the coffeehouse and local media for announcement of scheduled musicians. Through a special partnership with the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet (CRYB), where Monika is artistic director, we currently are exhibiting photographs of CRYB's production of The Nutcracker taken over the past several years by Jamestown photographer **Rob Sigler**. The photography exhibit runs through Dec. 31.

National News Briefs

by Bob

Phelps' Church Found Liable in Funeral Protest

A jury has ordered the anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church of Rev. Fred Phelps to pay \$10.9 million in damages to relatives of a U.S. Marine who died in Iraq after church members cheered at his funeral.

Church members have been staging demonstrations at military funerals throughout the country, saying the soldiers' deaths are God's punishment of America for tolerating homosexuality. The family of Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder sued the church after Phelps and his followers demonstrated at his 2006 funeral in Maryland with signs saying "You're going to hell" and "God hates you."

The federal jury determined the church, based in Topeka, KS, and three of its principals invaded the privacy of the dead man's family and inflicted emotional distress.

Albert Snyder, the Marine's father, testified that his son was not gay, but the church targeted the military as a symbol of America's tolerance of gays. Matthew Snyder died in combat in Iraq in March 2006.

The jury awarded Snyder's family \$2.9 million in compensatory damages plus \$8 million in punitive damages in the first civil suit against the church, which has demonstrated at some 300 military funerals the past two years.

"I hope it's enough to deter them from doing this to other families. It was not about the money. It was about getting them to stop," said Snyder, of York, PA.

The church is headed by Rev. Phelps and most of its members are part of his extended family. The church is not affiliated with any religious denomination.

"It will take the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals a few minutes to reverse this silly thing," Phelps said.

His daughter and co-defendant, Shirley Phelps-Roper, vowed to continue protesting military funerals and called the court's decision a blow against free speech.

Five-Star Gay Hotel Opens in Buenos Aires

Latin America's first five-star gay hotel has opened in Buenos Aires, an increasingly popular destination on the worldwide gay tourist circuit.

The hotel, located near the historic San Telmo neighborhood of the Argentine capital, is the second of its kind developed by the Axel Corp. of Spain, which opened a five-star, 66-room gay hotel in Barcelona in 2003.

"Like any other business, we have economic objectives," general manager Nacho Rodriguez said. But "we're also about fighting to help the normalization and acceptance of gays in society."

He said the hotel was designed to be open and airy.

"Many gay hotels and places are closed off and can't be seen from the street," Rodriguez said. "We wanted our hotel to be open and visible. Why should we try and hide ourselves?"

The hotel's top floor features a glass-bottomed pool that draws visitors' gazes upward as they enter the breezy lobby.

The 48-room hotel is "hetero-friendly," company officials say, noting about a quarter of the Barcelona hotel guests are heterosexual and predicting a similar pattern in Buenos Aires.

In recent years, Buenos Aires has vied with Rio de Janeiro for the title of South America's "gay capital." In September, Buenos Aires played host to the first international gay "World Cup" soccer championship. In 2002, the predominantly catholic city became the first capital in Latin America to legalize same-sex civil unions.

Another Republican Caught in Gay Sex Scandal

Another Republican politician has resigned from office amid a gay sex scandal. Washington State Representative Richard Curtis, who represents the southwest portion of the state, resigned from office after accusing a man of trying to extort \$1,000 from him. The other man says it was a payment for sex.

Spokane County Prosecutor Larry Steinmetz says

(continued on next page)

National News Briefs

it will take weeks to decide the exact facts in the case and whether or not any charges will be filed. Meanwhile, Republican leaders will choose a successor for Curtis to serve in the Legislature until the 2008 election.

In a statement, Curtis said, "Today I submitted my letter of resignation to Governor Gregoire effective immediately. While I believe we've done some good and helped a lot of people during the time I served in the Legislature, events that have recently come to light have hurt a lot of people. I sincerely apologize for any pain my actions may have caused.

"This has been damaging to my family, and I don't want to subject them to any additional pain that might result from carrying out this matter under the scrutiny that comes with holding public office," he said.

Police reports say that Curtis told police he was the victim in an extortion attempt by Cody Castagna at a Spokane hotel.

Castagna told police that Curtis agreed to pay him \$1,000 for sex and also said Curtis purchased two gay pornographic films for them to watch in his room. Curtis has denied having sex with Castagna.

Curtis, who is married and has children, was elected to the Washington House of Representatives in 2004 and has voted against gay rights legislation.

First Openly Gay Judge Appointed in Ohio

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland's appointment of a new judge in Montgomery County has made state history.

Former Dayton City Commissioner Mary Wiseman's appointment to the Common Pleas Court makes her the first openly gay judge in Ohio. She is replacing Judge John Kessler who is retiring.

Wiseman, 45, says she's proud if the gay community sees her as a role model and says she believes the rest of society can grow more comfortable about gays and lesbians in public office.

Gov. Strickland, a Democrat, says he's happy if he broke a barrier, while noting that he made his choice because of Wiseman's qualifications.

U.S. House Passes Non-Discrimination Bill

Reaction has been mixed to passage in the U.S. House of Representatives of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The bill passed on a vote of 235 to 184 and marks the first time either chamber of Congress has passed employment protections based on sexual orientation.

"Today, we witnessed the making of civil rights history in the U.S. House of Representatives by the passing of ENDA," Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said. "This vote by Congress is an important step at ensuring that millions of gay and lesbian Americans will never again have to go to work in fear of losing their jobs because of who they are."

However Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Inc., saw the vote in a different light.

"We are deeply disappointed that House leadership decided to ignore the position of a vast majority of LGBT organizations, ignore the legal assessment that this bill may not even provide adequate protections for gays, lesbians and bisexuals, and ignore the fact that this vote might make it more difficult to persuade members of Congress to support a fully inclusive bill in the future," he said. The bill does not include protection for transgender people.

"We are also disappointed that House leadership forced many members of its own caucus to choose between voting for a bill not supported by most in the LGBT community, or voting against a civil rights bill, Foreman said. "This entire process has been painful, divisive and unnecessary. And worst of all, we went through all of this on behalf of a bill that the President has already said he would veto."

Foreman went on to say, "We are relieved this episode is behind us, and starting right now we are going to pick up where we were six weeks ago—namely, working to pass into law in 2009 the ENDA our entire community wants and deserves."

Rep. Phil English of Erie voted in favor of final passage of the bill, after first voting in favor of a failed attempt to recommit the bill back to committee. Rep. John Peterson of Pleasantville voted against ENDA.

The Senate must now act on ENDA before it can become law. Sen. Edward Kennedy has said he

National News

will “move swiftly” to introduce a similar measure and observers believe it has a good chance of passing early next year, especially if it is worded correctly.

If passed, the bill, which President Bush has indicated he will veto, would make it illegal for an employer “to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to the compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment of the individual, because of such individual’s actual or perceived sexual orientation.”

Currently, only 19 states, Washington, D.C. and some municipalities (including Erie County) have laws barring such discrimination. Federal law only bars discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, sex, age, disability and pregnancy.

ENDA Votes at a glance

A list of how area representatives voted. Y (yes) means they voted in favor of ENDA, N (No) means they voted against it.

Pennsylvania

Rep. Philip English (R-3)	Y
Rep. Jason Altmire (D-4)	Y
Rep. John Peterson (R-5)	N

New York

Rep. Brian Higgins (D-27)	Y
Rep. Randy Kuhl (R-29)	Y

Ohio

Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-14)	N
Rep. Tim Ryan (D-17)	Y

ENDA Commentary

*by Jake Kaskey
Equality Advocates*

On November 7, the United States House passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that would protect people from discrimination in the workplace based on their sexual orientation. The House passed the measure by a vote of 235-184. While we are disappointed that ENDA did not include protections for transgender people, it is still quite great that such a great number of Representatives voted in favor of fairness and against discrimination in the workplace.

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, working together with organizations and individuals across the state, worked to educate all Pennsylvania members of Congress on the need for LGBT inclusive non-discrimination laws. Thanks to all of your calls, emails and other efforts, fifteen of Pennsylvania’s nineteen House members voted in favor of this important bill, including four Republicans: Rep. Phil English, as well as Representatives Gerlach, Dent, and Platt. *Please take a moment to call Rep. English to thank him for his vote! You can reach his office at (814) 456-2038.* It is just as important to thank legislators for their votes in support of our community as it is to continue educating those who aren’t always voting with us on these issues.

With strong Republican support for non-discrimination legislation nationally, both in Erie and statewide, we are looking forward to working with State Republican Senators and Representatives to pass HB 1400 and SB 761.

PA Hate Crimes law challenged

As this issue of EGN is being prepared, the Pennsylvania Hate Crimes law is being challenged.

We will have print coverage in our next issue. In the meantime, we will have updates in the website version of this edition. Visit www.eriegaynews.com



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Counting Your Blessings

Rev. Richard A. Moyer

Pastor Community United Church

Almost everyone I've talked to recently has expressed surprise that we are so close to Thanksgiving Day. All of a sudden, Halloween is but a memory and Thanksgiving is at hand! Maybe it's because the fall season here in Erie seemed, this year, to arrive sluggishly. The trees stayed greener longer and the colored leaves are clinging to the trees, even now, at the beginning of November. A glance at the calendar, though, jolts us back to the reality that Thanksgiving is only a few days away.

Even though I could use a few more months to get prepared for all that happens in the church between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I'm glad that the end of the year holidays are here.

Like most of you, I have wonderful memories of Thanksgiving Days spent with family and friends.

My childhood Thanksgivings were wonderful experiences of dinner at my grandmother's house far up in the Pocono Mountains of Eastern Pennsylvania.

**COMMUNITY
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CHURCH**

**Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service at 8 PM**

**West 38th & Cascade
Services Sunday at 11 AM
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My cousins and I would gather to try to think up all kinds of crazy things we could do together after the big meal and before the early darkness settled in. We usually had just enough snow to sled down the side of the mountain.

Memories are just one important part of our Thanksgiving celebration. This is a national holiday that gives us all a chance to reflect on the blessings of close friendships, material blessings and the great experiences that come with the richness that life brings. That which we have taken for granted throughout the rest of the year can now be counted among our very special blessings, if we take the time to be truly thankful.

We have always known that counting one's blessing is a key element to happiness, well being and wholeness. That has been acknowledged by the religious and philosophical communities for hundreds of years. In the Gospels, for example, Jesus clearly teaches the value of finding happiness and joy in the simplest gifts of life.

Now, as well, scientific research has concluded fascinating facts about gratitude and its effects on human fullness. And, of course, it is not surprising to many of us that their conclusions are that the people whom they determined lived with an attitude of gratitude, exercised more regularly, reported fewer physical ailments, felt better about their lives as a whole and were more optimistic about their futures.

It was even determined that participants in the evaluation who were more positive in their thinking and life style were more likely to have made progress toward important personal goals (academic, interpersonal and health-based) over a two-month period that those who were judged to have a less positive attitude when it came to being thankful.*

So, Thanksgiving is not only a Day; it is a way of life. To remember all the good in our lives and to be thankful for all blessings we have, great and small, can have a positive effect on our lives.

May each of you have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving as you are with the closest of family and friends, and as you remember that life is a gift for which to give thanks!

(*) Information taken from "Highlights from the Research Project on Gratitude and Thanksgiving," by Robert A. Emmons & Michael E. McCullough.

In Memoriam: Ryan

Going back in time, it would be priceless wouldn't it? To go back to times where we only cared about whose turn it was on the see-saw, or where we got our first car, or who our first puppy love was. Love, it takes on so many masks, its so hard to find the real thing and sometimes when you do, you never know until its taken from you.

Three years ago, going on four, I met a boy at a watch stand. He was wearing black pinstripes and a button down shirt, sleeves rolled up, a silver watch and a beautiful smile. The first thing he said to me was "you need a hair cut." At that point I knew I had just made a friend. Time passed, he moved from Pittsburgh to New York to Erie but still managed to keep in touch on line. As time went by we lost touch.

Fate just wouldn't allow that.

My friend Rob invited me out to Images in Pittsburgh. His boyfriend's friends, Jenn and Brad were there. Just like that, there was the infamous watch stand boy. We conversed and for the first time, I was brave. I asked him out and he laughed at me. We hung out several times. Then one Thursday night, I remember it like it was yesterday, he sang My Girlfriend by Avenue Q at Karaoke. After the song, he hung up his mic and looked at me and said "Just so you know you are my boy friend."

Who could ask for more?

Life ... You remember everything clear as day. The fun moments and the saddest moments of your entire life. Memories, love, life locked in time forever.

He was the world to so many people and he had no idea. No idea that his smile could brighten a room, that he could turn a boring Monday into a mega touch showdown. To chase people out of the bar by playing "bad music" that we have all grown very fond of, Liza, Avenue Q, Barbra S, Frank Sinatra, Rent... Without him, Pittsburgh would not have show tunes at karaoke.

He brought his friends together, connected all

as one. He did it with a smile and a tune

To take back time, to take back an ending, to take it back.

A lasting impression left on so many people. Now a mere footprint in time. I can honestly say that the little dash between his mark of birth and his mark of eternal happiness is a big one.

Yes, he is no longer with us, but born in our hearts, he has left a little piece of him with us.

People come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn.

He taught us so much in the years he was with us. Most importantly he taught us to be ourselves, no exceptions and no questions asked.

I know I am who I am today because I knew you.

He's a son, a brother, a cousin, a nephew, a friend, a lover.

A life locked in time forever.

Rest in Peace.

Zack

Erie Gay News welcomes obituaries and memorials submitted by loved ones.
Contact this publication for guidelines.



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EGN's Online contests

Erie Gay News occasionally runs online contests for advertisers. This month, we have not one but three online contests! Feel free to enter any or all of them. Check out <http://www.eriegaynews.com> for details and also to enter.

Body Language \$50 Gift Certificate Giveaway

Body Language is giving away a \$50 gift certificate which can be used either at their web site or at their store in Cleveland. To enter, just fill out the form at <http://www.eriegaynews.com>! Entries must be received between Nov. 23 and Dec. 21.

Body Language sells a wide variety of erotica and pride items. Body Language is the premier store in Ohio for GLBT folks. Owner Paul Zeitzew says that even heterosexuals shop there, because some of their items are not found in any stores in the state.

Hairspray DVD Online Contest

Erie Gay News will have 5 copies of the new HAIRSPRAY DVD and Original Sound-track CD to give away! To enter, just fill out the form at <http://www.eriegaynews.com> between Nov. 16 and Dec. 14. The beat goes on this holiday season! Grab your dancing shoes as HAIRSPRAY, one of the most well-reviewed movies of the year, arrives in stores Nov. 20. The film is based on John Waters' contemporary classic film and the subsequent Broadway musical about star-struck teenagers on a local Baltimore dance show. All star cast includes John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken, Amanda Bynes, James Marsden, and Queen Latifah!

You can view the movie's trailer at www.hairspraymovie.com/



Exercise Book Online Giveaway

Exercise 2 U In-Home/On-Line Personal Training has a contest for the 1500 page E-book "The Most Complete, Practical, And HONEST Weight Loss Fitness And Nutrition Guide- For REAL People Who Want REAL Results REALLY Fast!"

The contest runs from Nov. 30 through Dec. 28. Enter and you could win this E-book which is authored by 147 Personal Trainers who are tops in their field! This will be delivered on CD, with a bonus "Chicken, Egg and Seafood" recipe book!

Exercise 2 U is owned by Dave Herber, who is a personal trainer. He is a National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and an ACE Certified Personal Trainer. Dave is also an ACE Certified Lifestyle and Weight Loss Consultant. He currently holds an American Heart Association CPR/AED Healthcare Provider certification as well.

Browse to <http://www.exercise2u.com> for more info! Look and Feel Great in 2008!



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World AIDS Day 2007

By Fran Reinsel

SHOUT OUTREACH/Gaudenzia

How many years has World AIDS Day been observed? What have we learned and where are we going? As we look back on the last 25 years, we have come a long way, baby. The year 2007 brings new and better treatment regimes. New medications are passed quickly by the FDA to help sustain those lives. People living with this disease have gone back to work and have resumed living.

On the down side, the infection continues to rise among Black and Hispanic men and women. The youth of our gay population has not kept up with the reality of the disease and their infection rate is rising. As providers, we have to deal with the lack of funding to outreach to these specific populations.

As we observe Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day, let us as a community reach out to our family and friends and tell someone about the risk of HIV infection. Encourage those you know and love to get tested. The theme of World AIDS Day is "LEADERSHIP STOP AIDS." We can all be leaders in our own way to help increase awareness about HIV/AIDS.

SHOUT OUTREACH and Gaudenzia, Erie, Inc. encourages all people from all communities to attend a World AIDS Day event. These are the events that have already been scheduled. The WORLD AIDS DAY church services include:

Greater Calvary Full Gospel Baptist Church Youth conferences on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 9 am at 2624 German St.

Abundant Life Church Ministries—Church Services at 7pm Dec. 1 followed by a Spaghetti Dinner at E. 8th and Parade Street

San Juan Methodist Church—Dec. 1 at 7 pm. 1430 Buffalo Road. There will be a Health Fair from 5 – 7PM, which will include a part of the AIDS Quilt, followed by a Worship Service of Remembrance at 7PM with a guest speaker. The Service will be bilingual for our Hispanic guests. Refreshments will be served afterwards. This year we are combining the efforts of four churches to hold this event, Simpson, Cascade, Henderson, and San Juan United Methodist Churches.

Trance Dance Club at 1611 Raspberry St., Dec. 2, at 9 pm—the Tree of Hope and an Entertainment Program, "The Recalling," beginning at 11 PM by Tom

Lee. Refreshments by SHOUT OUTREACH. A \$2 cover charge at the door to cover costs.

Mount St. Benedict at 6101 East Lake Road on Dec. 3 at 7 pm. Remembrance Service by the Benedictine Sisters

The Mental Health Association at 1101 Peach Street on Dec. 4 at 10:30 am, a World AIDS Day Prayer Service.

JFK Center 2021 Buffalo Road at 6 pm, a World AIDS Day program presented by the Youth Department.

Marsha Hall Learning Center Harbor Homes Administration Building at 1841 East 18th Street at 1:30 pm—"Remembering the Spirit of Julia"

SHOUT OUTREACH welcomes all who would like to attend any of the public events. Events at Community House, Gaudenzia Erie, SCI Cambridge Springs, and SCI Albion are not open to the public. For further information, please call Steve at 814-459-4775. At San Juan Methodist Church, The Mental Health Assoc., JFK and The Marsha Hall Center, free and confidential HIV testing will be available using the Oral Swab.

Chautauqua County events

SUNY Fredonia's student group, S.T.E.P.S. (Students Teaching Equals Positive Sexuality), is planning activities to benefit Malawi Children's Village (MCV) Foundation, a community based program providing care for over 2500 AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi, Africa. All proceeds from the following will go to MCV:

Thursday November 29 - JAMNESTY Concert at BJ's Bar in Fredonia.

Saturday December 1 - AIDS Walk, police escorted through Fredonia, ending at the Williams Center at the campus. This is the major event in the series of activities. (See www.fredoniasteps.org for more information.)

On Monday December 3, there will be an AIDS Walk Memorial in SUNY Fredonia Williams Center - ALL DAY (balloon releasing, statistics, etc.)

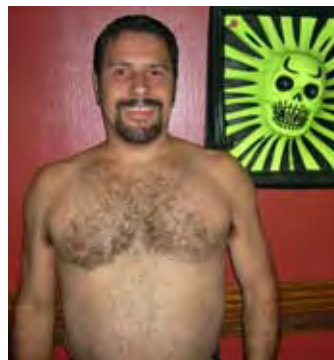
For information about MCV, see www.malawichildrensivillage.com/index.html

Venango County

For information on Venango County events, contact Roxanne at (814) 677-2757 or thelatonia@verizon.net

Out and About at Halloween

Photos from Halloween parties at Trance and the Zone. Top row from left: Lou, Bruce and Tony, Delanie and Gabe. Second row: Lori Wescoat and Alexis Tate, Jennifer and Erin, Tira and Tom. Third row: Ben and David, Liz Taylor circa 1050, Jeff. More photos at the EGN website. Photos by James von Loewe.



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