

Erie Gay News

Women's get-together at Zodiac

by Barbara

There will be a get-together for lesbian/bi/trans women at the Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St. Erie, on Saturday, April 26 from 2-5 p.m. The organizer is Barbara, who will wear a name tag with Barb on it. She'd like to see how many LGBT women we can fit in the diner, so much so, that she's buying coffee and dessert for every woman who shows up! She hopes you make her go broke! For questions call (814) 392-4861 or email womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com

Youngstown benefit concert for GLBT youth performers

from Oakland Center for the Arts

The Oakland Center for the Arts, Youngstown's only avant-garde theater, will host a benefit performance April 5, to raise awareness and financial support for Pittsburgh's queer youth performing arts troupe, DREAMS OF HOPE.

Since tickets for this performance are selling fast, reservations are advised and may be made by calling the box office at 330-746-0404. The theater is located at 220. W. Boardman St., Youngstown.

This production, emceed by professional performer Liz Rubino, will feature some of the best GLBTQ talent from Pittsburgh, Youngstown and Cleveland including: Alexis Antes, Patrick Arena, Richard Bell, Jan Held, Robert Dennick Joki, Jared Leal, Dan Nadon, Liz Rubino and L.J. Tessier. A reception will follow the performance.

Visit www.dreamsofhope.org for more information on this troupe of kids, and support GLBTQ youth by attending this one night only benefit performance. For more information on the Oakland Center for the Arts, log on to: www.oaklandcenter.com.



Members of Pittsburgh's gay youth performing arts troupe Dreams of Hope. GLBT performers from around the region will perform at a benefit for this group April 5 (see related article.)

Lambda Car Club Gets Ready for 2008

from Lambda Car Club

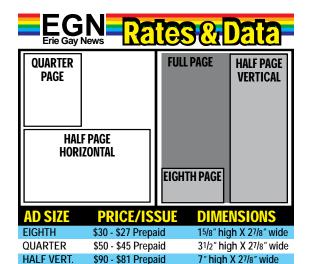
Antique/classic car shows, parades, social gatherings and other activities are on the schedule as the Allegheny Region of the Lambda Car Club International gets ready to enjoy the 2008 season.

Activities begin Sunday, March 30, as club members venture to the Fiesta Ware factory outlet store in Newell, WV, followed by a visit to the nearby Pottery City Antique Mall and/or the Mountaineer Casino.

Founded in 1981, The Lambda Car Club is the world's largest GLBT car club, with some 2,000 members in 27 different regions. The Allegheny Region serves western Pennsylvania and northeastern Ohio.

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Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words!
See page 7 for more info.



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.

\$90 - \$81 Prepaid

\$160 - \$144 Prepaid



Erie Gay News

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: Apr 14 (Monday), will be out night of Tuesday, Apr 22.

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 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.

THANKS From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To the Zone for hosting, James von Loewe, Jack Walburn, Tom, Jeff, Alex, Ash, Johauna and Bruce Shrout for folding: Bruce Shrout, Johauna, James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, Jack Walburn, 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.

31/2" high X 6" wide

71/2" high X 6" wide

HALF HORZ.

FULL PAGE

Community News

Individuals of all ages are invited to join the club. You don't have to own an antique/classic vehicle to join, you just have to have a love for these vehicles and an interest in their preservation.

For more information on the Lambda Car Club, log on to www.lambdacarclub.com. To contact the Allegheny Region, email LCCIAllegheny@yahoo.com or call Bob at (814) 572-2195.

Come on OUT! for Trivia Night

Come on OUT!, a new monthly GLBT social networking group, will once again, be hosting its popular Trivia Night Thursday, March 27, at the Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St. Come on Out! offers the regional GLBT community an opportunity to get together in a social setting, have fun and make new friends.

The March 27 Trivia Night at the Zodiac Dinor will begin at 7 p.m. Bring your own team of four people or come and join a team and make new friends. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Come on Out! and enjoy the fun.

For more information, call Brian at 1-888-749-7073 (toll free) or check out our new web site: http://comeonouterie.googlepages.com.

Come on OUT! is presented in cooperation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie's GLBT community organization.

Fund-raiser at Director's Circle Theater April 17 to Benefit Erie Gay Pride

An evening of good theater and a wine and cheese reception is planned for Thursday, April 17, at the Director's Circle Theater as a benefit for Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie's GLBT community organization.

The reception will begin at 6:30 PM followed at 8 PM by the play *Siblings*, described as an enlightening murder mystery. The Director's Circle Theater is located at 1001 State St. in the Renaissance Center.

Tickets for the reception and theater production are \$25 per person. Reservations are requested and may be made by emailing Erie Gay Pride at eriegaypride@gmail.com or by calling Brian at 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). Payment may be made the evening of the event. Only cash or personal checks made payable to Erie Gay Pride, Inc. can be accepted.

Obama Campaign reaches out to LGBT community

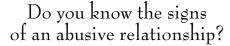
Chris Young, a long-time political activist who is highly involved in GLBT rights, will be in Erie to speak on behalf of the Barack Obama campaign on Saturday, March 29. The informal informational meeting is for supporters and people who would like to learn why the GLBT community should support Barack Obama for President. It will take place at the home of Jeffrey Hill, 1146 Brown Ave. Erie, email: gdfrydch@hotmail. com, phone: 814-454-6465. This event is open to all. Refreshments will be provided.

Drenched Fur 4 Has Options For You!

A sell-out weekend is in store for Drenched Fur 4, April 4-6. Even though the weekend package runs are sold out, folks can consider ala carte choices to join the fun.

On Thursday Night before things kick off, early

(continued on page 4)



- ☐ 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?
- ☐ Are there constant calls and "tracking" of the partner?



These are just a few of the signs that a relationship is on its way to devastating intimate partner violence. Learn more!

Call SafeNet. We can help! 814-454-8161 HOTLINE

www.safeneterie.org

Community News

(continued from page 3)

arrivals and the committee members will get together at Raphael's Tavern, 363 W 8th Street, starting at 7 pm (no cover charge). Friday, things get started with the Meet 'n Greet from 7-10 pm on the second floor of the Avalon Hotel. The cover charge is \$7. Hosted by Bears of Toronto, this event brings together run attendees as well as local folks. In addition, our Vendors Mall will be taking place at the same time where various items from apparel to books, CDs and DVDs can be purchased.

Saturday morning brings back the Vendors Mall from 10 am until Noon (no cover charge). Beginning at 8:30 pm Saturday in the Niagara Ballroom at the Avalon, the public can attend the Comedy Show as we welcome Erie's own Uncle Pete for the opening act, followed by the notoriously bawdy and funny William Brown. The \$10 cover charge includes DJ'd Dance. Or come on over at 10 pm and for a \$5 cover charge, get your groove on to the sounds of DJ Tony Ruiz at the Wet 'n Wild Dance.

On Sunday morning, we're hosting our Second

COME PITCH YOUR TENT AT THE POND.



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A Members-Only, Adult Male (21+), Clothing Optional, Gay Campground on 117 acres! Call or visit our web site for info £ events!

585-567-8100 JonesPond.com



Annual Charity Silent Auction and Breakfast Buffet in the Niagara Ballroom with a \$15 cover fee (includes breakfast). Proceeds benefit the Shriners Hospital for Children here in Erie. More details can be found at www.drenchedfur.com - so come join the fun!

Unitarian Garage Sale

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie (7180 New Perry Highway, Rte. 97) will be holding their Annual 100+ Family Garage Sale on Friday, June 6 from 9-1 PM, and Saturday, June 7 from 9-1 PM.

Everyone is encouraged to donate good, clean, usable items – they can be dropped off at Church the week prior to the Sale. We'd love to see everyone during the Sale. There will be something for everyone – clothing, books, furniture, lunch and baked goods, tools, toys, electronics, music, housewares, live plants, outdoor fun toys, art, sporting goods, jewelry and maybe even the kitchen sink! Hope to see you there! Watch the Erie Gay News for more details.

Volunteers Needed to Help Plan Erie Pride Rally

from Erie Pride

Volunteers are needed to help plan this year's Erie Gay Pride March/Rally to be held Sunday, June 29. There are many opportunities to help in the planning process and on the day of the event. Fresh ideas, manpower and material resources are always appreciated.

As in past years, the event will get started with a march down State Street from The Zone Dance Club to Perry Square where the rally was held. Formation will begin at 12 noon with the march step-off planned for 1 PM. The rally itself should begin about 2 PM and feature speakers, entertainment, vendors and much more. Activities should conclude by 4 PM.

If you are interested in getting involved, please call Brian at 1-866-229-1974 (toll free) or log on to www.eriegaypride.org. This year's Pride March/Rally is being organized by Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie County's newly incorporated LGBT organization.

Erie Gay Pride will be working with Erie Gay News, the organizers of the annual Erie Pride Picnic at Presque Isle State Park set for Saturday, June 28, to make this Erie's first Gay Pride Weekend since 2003

CVC April events

from Crime Victim Center

April is a very important month for victims, their family members and all those who work with victims. It is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed April 13-19. The theme for Victims' Rights Week this year is "Justice for Victims, Justice for All."

The Crime Victim Center has several events planned around these observances. One is the fourth annual awards luncheon to be held April 23, at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center. Two groups will be recognized for their roles in "reducing the impact of crime" for victims in our community. The honorees are Saint Vincent Forensic Nurse Examiners, a specially trained team of nurses who work with sexual assault victims in the emergency room, and the Sexual Offender Program, a collaborative treatment team from Erie County's Adult Probation Department.

Other events include the Good Secrets/ Bad Secrets art contest (a joint project with Pfeiffer-Burleigh School, Erie Insurance and Judge Stephanie Domitrovich) and the annual Victims' Rights Rally. This observance allows the Crime Victim Center and other victim-serving agencies to celebrate the progress that has been made on behalf of victims and to rededicate themselves to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Until all victims report crimes, know and exercise their rights and receive help to rebuild their lives, there is still work to do!

For more information on any of the April observances and events, call the Crime Victim Center at (814) 455-9414.



SafeNet Conference

from SafeNet

PA Attorney General and Nationally Known Author/Lecturer will be speaking at SafeNet's Legal Conference on April 16.

The legal conference, entitled "Domestic Violence: Behind Closed Doors" will be held from 9 am-3 pm at the Bel–Aire Hotel and Conference Center.

This year's presenter is Lt. Mark Wynn who is a 20-year member of the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department and has served as a lieutenant to the Domestic Violence Division. Wynn was a member to the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for 15 years. He is a recipient of 121 commendations and 51 awards and certificates including the 1998 Nashvillian of the Year Award and the National Improvement of Justice Award. Lt Wynn has appeared on many talk shows including Oprah Winfrey.

Topics to be discussed by Lt. Wynn will be victim safety, threat assessment, strangulations and stalking and responding to children.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Corbett took office on January 18, 2005 as Pennsylvania's 25th Attorney General, dedicating the resources of the Office of Attorney General to make the Commonwealth a safer and better place for families to live and work and grow.

The cost of the legal conference is \$55 per person and is recommended for social service workers, law enforcement officers, court staff, attorneys, drug and alcohol treatment counselors and victim services providers. Those who are unable to make the conference but would like to attend the luncheon where Attorney General Tom Corbett will be speaking, may do so at a cost of \$35.

For more information about the legal conference, call Rick Liebel at SafeNet, 814-455-1774 extension 234 or email rliebel@safeneterie.org

SafeNet is not a homeless shelter, but a safe and confidential place specifically for men, women and children who are victims of domestic violence. From every city and township in the area, victims come to SafeNet seeking support, safety and shelter from physical abuse and threats of violence occurring at home. After more that 30 years of providing shelter and many other supportive services, SafeNet knows first-hand that there is hope and there is help. SafeNet is Pennsylvania's oldest continuous running domestic violence shelter.

Calendar

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

Mar 27 (Thu) – Trivia Night, sponsored by Come on OUT!, Erie's new GLBT monthly social group, 7 p.m., at the Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St., Erie. Bring your team of four or join a team. Presented in cooperation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc. For information call Brian at 1-888-749-7073 or http://comeonouterie.googlepages.com.

Mar 29 (Sat) - Mixers cast goes out (Moose Club, 201 W State St, Olean, NY) 9:30 PM. Mixers cast is out to represent what the public is missing. They are going to be at the Moose Club! Show starts 9:30-ish! \$6 cover. Phone: (716) 372-1004. Email: mixerspub@aol.com. Browse to http://www.mixerspub.com.

Apr 4 (Fri) - Zone's Bear Bar Night! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) The Zone welcomes all the guys from Drenched Fur IV to a night of Dancing and fun! Hungry? Grab a bite to eat from the Zone Kitchen, Try a Zone Twister Cocktail & join your friends on the Video Dancefloor as fellow bear DI

Information is Power

Stay informed about health issues concerning men who have sex with men. Sign up for the Pitt Men's Study Health Alerts email list service.



It's free and confidential and you can unsubscribe at any time. For more information, go to www.stopHIV.com/pms

TC plays your requests! Welcome to the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Web: www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 5 - Dreams of Hope Benefit concert in Youngstown Ohio at the Oakland Center for the Arts. Reservations are advised--call box office at 330-746-0404. The theater is located at 220. W. Boardman St., Youngstown, Ohio. Visit www.dreamsofhope. org and www.oaklandcenter.com

Apr 12 (Sat) - Bling Bling- Zone's Pimp-N-Ho Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Calling all the fly-est Pimps and the Sexiest Ho's to our Naughty Pimp and Ho Party at the Zone! Come dressed to impress in your outrageous pimpin' Sugar Daddy suit, or Sassy and Sexy Lady or Lad of the Night—making sure to show off your Bling! Polish your grills, grab your magic stick, put that junk in the trunk and join us for a trashy night of fun on the video dance floor! Get your game on player! Prize for Best Pimp Daddy and Sexiest Ho! - and see who makes the dough! Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 12 (Sat) - Trailer Trash Drag Show (Mixers, 204 Coleman St, Olean, NY) 10 PM. Special Guest/Co-Host Jayme Cox from Buffalo, NY. Phone: (716) 372-1004. Email: mixerspub@aol.com. Browse to http://www.mixerspub.com.

April 17 (Thu) - Fund-raiser for Erie Gay Pride, Inc, wine and cheese reception and a performance of "Siblings" at the Director's Circle Theater. The reception will begin at 6:30 PM followed by the play at 8 PM. The Director's Circle Theater is located at 1001 State St., Erie, in the Renaissance Center. Tickets are \$25 per person. Reservations may be made by emailing Erie Gay Pride at eriegaypride@gmail.com or by

(continued on next page)



Email: info@312seaton.com • http://www.312seaton.com

Calendar

calling 1-866-229-1974 (toll free).

Apr 24-27 (Thu-Sun) - Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend Wyndham Hotel, 1260 Euclid, Cleveland, (216)252-2148, www.clawinfo.org.

Apr 25 (Fri) - Broadway Divas (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) The divas of the Zone will be performing your favorite songs from stage and screen! Get here early for best seats! Get into the Zone! Let us entertain you! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 25 - 27 (Fri- Sun) - Opening Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Welcome Home potluck. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to http://www.jonespond.com.

Apr 26 (Sat) - Hollywood Black & White Party! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Lights! Cameras! Action! Walk the red carpet into the Zone for our Hollywood Black & White Party! Wear black & white or come dressed as your favorite silver screen legend of yesteryear! Mae West, Charlie Chaplin, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, John Wayne! Try out the casting couch on the dance floor and be a Hollywood hunk or silver screen starlet! Get into the Zone and be a star! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www. thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 29 (Tue) - Men's Greet 'n Chat (Nunzi's Place, 2330 E 38th St, Erie PA 16510) 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.

Apr 29 (Tue) - Érie BROADWAY Series presents "Hairspray" at Warner Theatre 7:30pmCall (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070. Purchase at the Erie Civic Center box office, Ticketmaster outlets or www. ticketmaster.com.

May 5 (Mon) - Tegan and Sara in Pittsburgh at Palace Theatre www.thepalacetheatre.org/

Deadline for next issue is Apr 14



ONLY \$10 for 30 Words.

\$5 for Additional 15 Words.

INEXPENSIVE, EFFECTIVE & FUN

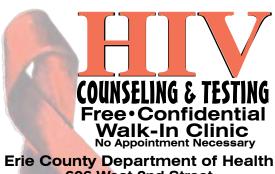
EGN reserves the right to refuse any inappropriate classified.

Room Mate Wanterd

To share large downtown home on Erie's west side with 2 gay roommates and a small dog. Rent includes private bedroom, utilities. cable & phone. No pets. Căll 459-8054.

Wanted: Efficiency Apt

In or near downtown Erie. Mature and guiet non-smoker, no pets. 786-351-0303 (cell)



606 West 2nd Street

Corner of 2nd and Cherry

HIV Testing Hours: Tuesday 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Erie Office - Outreach Services 814-451-6700 Corry Office 814-663-3891

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 www.eriegaynews.com! Entries must be received between Mar. 28 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.

Stay updated! Subscribe to the Erie GLBT Mailing List

Subscribe to the **Erie GLBT Mailing Lis**Visit www.eriegaynews.com

Talent Show

by Michael Mahler

Plans are shaping up for the 16th annual Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 28 from 1-6 PM at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park. The next planning meeting will be Sunday, April 13 at 2 PM at Panera's Yorktown, 2501 W. 12th St.

In addition to adding children's activities this year, Robbie has very kindly volunteered to coordinate a talent show. We are looking for a variety of performers (musicians, comedians, drag, dancers, etc.) If you are interested in performing, please contact Robbie at talentshow@eriegaynews.com.

Robbie is also seeking sponsors for this talent show as well as volunteers interested in helping out. This will be somewhat casual, as the talent show will be going on while the other usual activities are going on. This will also include an improv comedy workshop, coordinated again this year by Bethany and Kate.

For more info, contact Mike at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for general questions about the picnic.





☆☆☆ PA VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

Candidates for US Congress (PA - 3rd District) PA State Senate and PA State Representative were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

US CONGRESS

Not Responding: Phil English (R-Incumbent)

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

What is your stance on legislation, such as the Employment Non Discrimination Act, which would protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in housing, public accommodations and employment?

Kathleen Dahlkemper (D)

I fully support HR 3685 ENDA and would have voted for it were I in Congress at the time. I do not believe there should be any limitations placed on this Bill and that full protection for all Americans is a right and should not limited in any way.

Kyle Foust (D)

I support ENDA and would have voted for the Baldwin version including discrimination against transgendered persons.

Tom Myers (D)

I am against discrimination of all types and support the Employment Non-discrimination Act.

Steve Porter (I)

I favor the legislation.

Mike Waltner (D)

I am in full support of the Employment Non Discrimination Act and other important legislation that would seek to prevent discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation and religious preference. It is imperative that no American feel limited in what they can do in this country based on the way they are born. I consider this to be a basic civil right, and one that should be afforded to all citizens of this country.

HATE CRIMES

Would you support legislation, such as the Matthew Shepherd Act, which would include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in categories already included for prosecuting violent crime?

Kathleen Dahlkemper (D)

I absolutely support the Matthew Shepherd Act. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression cannot be tolerated any more than a hate crime based on race, religion or disability cannot be tolerated.

Kyle Foust (D)

Fully.

Tom Myers (D)

I also support Hate Crimes legislation. Such crimes should not be tolerated. There should be serious penalties for the same as a deterrent. Such crimes proliferate the misinformed opinions, stereotypes and prejudices that spawn such attitudes in the first place.

Steve Porter (I)

Yes.

Mike Waltner (D)

Absolutely. I strongly support legislation that would impose harsher penalties against those who commit violent crimes on the basis of a persons identity, whether it be sexual orientation, religious preference, race, or gender. We need to ensure that all citizens of this country feel free and safe in leading their everyday life.

Continued on next page

US CONGRESS

MILITARY SERVICE

Would you support legislation, such as the Military Readiness Enhancement Act that would allow openly gay, lesbian bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people to serve in the military?

Kathleen Dahlkemper (D)

Clearly Don't Ask Don't Tell is a failed policy and one that denigrates our soldiers and keeps them second class citizens. I believe that any individual who is willing to serve his/her country should be able to do so without fear of harassment or retribution. I would support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR1246).

Kyle Foust (D)

I am proud of and support all who serve in the military, including my sister who recently retired after 20 years in the Air Force. Given that many of those dismissed from service over the past 15 years have been those with critical skills, such as Arab-language translators, it is clear that DADT does not work for our country.

Tom Myers (D)

I will support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation should have no place in our military. Repealing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy will save hundreds of millions of dollars and add 41,000 troops to our forces. These are often critical service positions that these good, honorable folks are being discharged solely because they are gay. We need to get on with our mission and get over such archaic prejudices.

Steve Porter (I)

Yes

Mike Waltner (D)

I believe that discrimination is discrimination. We begin to enter into dangerous waters when we decide to enact legislation that overtly limits the civil liberties of any of our citizens based on who they are. We all recall the egregious arguments made for years claiming that allowing women to serve would prove detrimental to our armed forces. As history has clearly shown, our military and our nation have benefited from the service of our women in uniform. The current "don't ask, don't tell" policy dishonors the sacrifices made by gays and lesbians currently serving, or who have previously served in our armed forces.

OTHER

What else would you like to let people know about you?

Kathy Dahlkemper (D)

You did not ask about Civil Unions so let me just state for the record that I support Civil Unions and Domestic Partner benefits.

On a personal note, I am running for Congress because we have had enough of the so-called family values of the Republican right, enough of the failed fiscal policies of the Republican Party and because of the lack of visionary leadership for this region and country.

I am a small businesswoman, civic and community leader and mother of five. I am not a career politician but a concerned citizen who is determined to lead our nation in a new direction. I believe the depth and breadth of my background in areas such as health care, environmental leadership and as a business owner gives me the experience necessary to make a difference in our region and the nation. I will work tirelessly to create an environment that encourages investment and job growth, that takes care of our children, the elderly, the poorest among us and the working poor. I will strive to leave our world safer and stronger, cleaner and brighter than we currently find it.

I am determined to make a difference:

- o For the millions of children and workers without health insurance
- o For our region, by leading the way to new jobs through the development of new technologies
- o For our troops, by bringing them home quickly and safely
- o For our world, by facing the issues of climate change
- o For our children, whose education must prepare them to succeed locally and globally

US CONGRESS

o For those without a voice, the poor, the disadvantaged, and all the various minority populations

Please visit my website at www.kathydahlkemperforcongress.com or contact me at infro@kathydahlkemperforcongress.com with any questions. Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.

Kyle Foust (D)

One of my proudest accomplishments on Erie County Council has been keeping my campaign promise to restart the county Human Relations Commission.

Tom Myers (D)

I would also like people to know that as an attorney I am a staunch supporter of the U. S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. I would oppose any constitutional amendments to ban same sex marriage. I support civil unions and the notion that same sex couples should enjoy full and equal protection under the law, including all the rights and benefits incident to marriage between opposite sex couples.

Steve Porter (I)

The Constitution prohibits the violation of civil rights for any "arbitrary" reason such as age, sex, gender, creed, religion, physical condition or sexual orientation. It is about time this nation comes into compliance with its Constitution and does not allow the prejudices of people to erode the civil liberties we all are guaranteed.

Congressional candidates' websites

To learn more about each candidate, you can visit his or her campaign website:

Kathy Dahlkemper

www.kathydahlkemperforcongress.com
Phil English www.philenglish.org
Kyle Foust www.foustforcongress.com
Tom Myers www.tommyersforcongress.com
Steve Porter www.porter4congress.com
Mike Waltner www.waltnerforcongress.com

Mike Waltner (D)

I am a firm believer that "To lead is to serve." That is why I have been focusing all of my campaign's resources on building what is the largest grassroots operation in this race so that I can gain direct access to the voters of this district, so I can hear their voice and share with them my vision for positive change. Our campaign is predicated on an inclusive approach. With the largest, and, in fact, only functioning grassroots operation in this contest we are reaching out to all voters in this district, regardless of location, sexual orientation, race, gender, age, or economic status To date we have already knocked on over 4,000 doors, making direct contact with over 8,000 individual voters. Our operation is constantly growing as we convey our message. We are confident that by April 22nd we will have knocked on nearly 30,000 doors, connecting with almost every Democratic voter in the district. I am the only candidate doing this, and I am also the only candidate in this race with a national fundraising base. In fact, the success of our grassroots campaign is bringing in new donors every day. I intend to use these two assets to ensure that Phil English is no longer our Congressman on January 1st, 2009. The way for us to affect real change in this district is to send a new type of leader to Washington. It is simply too risky to settle for another self-financing candidate, lawyer, or career politician. We've been trying this for the past 14 years and it has gotten us nothing. My extensive professional background in community service has informed my view of what leadership should be in this country, and I believe that I am the new type of leader who can once again make government serve the interests of the citizens of this district.

Coming in the May Issue ...

Summer 2008 Events & Places!

PA STATE SENATE

These are the questions that were asked of candidates for State Senate:

Anti-Discrimination

What is your stance on legislation, such as SB 761, which would protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in housing, public accommodations and employment?

Hate Crimes

Pennsylvania's Ethnic Crimes Intimidation Act has included sexual orientation and gender identity for several years now. It has been challenged on a procedural issue in court. Would you support passage of similar legislation if the existing legislation was invalidated.

Same sex couples

Do you support any recognition of rights for same-sex couples? Would you oppose SB 1250, which would amend Pennsylvania's constitution to ban equal marriage rights, civil unions and possibly threaten other forms of protection.

Other

What else would you like to let people know about you?

District 49

Not responding Jane Earll (R - Incumbent District 49)

Anti Discimination

Cindy Purvis (D)

I will support anti-discrimination legislation.

Hate Crimes

Cindy Purvis (D)

I support passage of Ethic Crimes Intimidation which includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

Same Sex Couples

Cindy Purvis (D)

I support rights for same-sex couples. I oppose SB 1250.

Jane Earll (R-Incumbent) quote: Although not responding to the EGN questionnaire, the following is a statement from Senator Earll when she voted against SB 1250 coming out the Judiciary Committee:

"I think it's a very dangerous precedent to be amending the constitution of Pennsylvania based on court decisions in other states. I don't think we should be doing it based on potential threats, ghosts in corners, when there's no evidence there's any litigation now or being championed, or in the past, in Pennsylvania."

Other

Cindy Purvis (D)

I oppose any legislation or other attempt to blame minorities for our problems as a means of diverting the eyes of the electorate from our real issues and culprits. This type of divisiveness serves no one but those who benefit from keeping us separated.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my viewpoint on your issues.

District 21

Not responding: Mary Jo White (R - Incumbent District 21)

State Senate candidates' websites

To learn more about each candidate, you can visit their websites:

DISTRICT 49

Jane Earll www.senatorearll.com Cindy Purvis www.cindypurvis.com DISTRICT 21

Mary Jo White www.senatormjwhite.com

PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The candidates for State House of Representatives were asked the following questions:

Anti-Discrimination - What is your stance on legislation, such as HB 1400, which would protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in housing, public accommodations and employment?

Hate Crimes - Pennsylvania's Ethnic Crimes Intimidation Act has included sexual orientation and gender identity for several years now. It has been challenged on a procedural issue in court. Would you support passage of similar legislation if the existing legislation was invalidated.

Same sex couples - Do you support any recognition of rights for same-sex couples? Would you oppose legislation similar to SB 1250, which would amend Pennsylvania's constitution to ban equal marriage rights, civil unions and possibly threaten other forms of protection.

Other- What else would you like to let people know about you?

District 1

Anti Discimination

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I am a co-sponsor of HB 1400, and I was instrumental in having the hearing late last fall at the Blasco Library regarding this issue.

Hate Crimes

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

Yes

Same Sex Couples

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I would have to know all of the particulars of the legislation that would come before me before I would support it. I believe what consenting adults choose to do in the privacy of their residence is their right, with

no involvement from the government.

Other

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I am an open-minded legislator, and I try to see all sides of an issue before making a decision.

District 2

Anti Discimination

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

As the Erie County Clerk I worked extensively and cooperatively with all stakeholders to effectuate anti discrimination language for the Erie County Human Relations Commission. Through the efforts of many persons who were desirous and committed to protect all citizens regardless of their sexual orientation, the Erie County Council adopted, and the Erie County Executive signed an ordinance which amended The Erie County Human Relations Charter by incorporating language prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation

I am a cosponsor of HB 1400, and I will work diligently for its passage.

Hate Crimes

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

I would support the adoption of similar legislation.

Same Sex Couples

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

I support the recognition of rights for same—sex couples or civil unions. I would oppose any constitutional amendment that would ban civil unions or provides language that specifies that marriage can be only between a man and a woman. The constitution should be empowering and it should not be a document that impedes, threatens or violates human and/or civil rights.

Continued on next page

PA House of Representatives

District 3

Not Responding: Jason Owen (R), Joe Pfadt (R)

Anti Discimination

John Hornaman (D-Incumbent)

As a co-sponsor to HB 1400, I believe there should be no discrimination in housing or employment based on any factor of one's existence. I also believe that neither party in negotations for housing or employment should seek to make sexual orientation an issue in those negotations.

Hate Crimes

John Hornaman (D-Incumbent)

I disagree with the concept of "hate crimes" entirely. If you have been beaten or murdered, you are no more beaten because you were hated for your race or sexual orientation.

Same Sex Couples

John Hornaman (D-Incumbent)

I believe that a marriage exists between one man and one woman. I would not oppose SB 1250.

District 4

Not Responding: Curt Sonney (R-Incumbent)

Anti Discimination

Rick Mitchell (D)

I am in favor of equal treatment for all people, and agree in principle with the provisions of HB 1400.

Hate Crimes

Rick Mitchell (D)

I would support common sense hate crimes legislation.

Same Sex Couples

Rick Mitchell (D)

I would support civil unions. Same sex couples should have the same property rights under the law as anyone else. Estate laws that punish people not given equal standing under that law are unfair. Individual churches will do what they choose, but I would oppose legislation such as SB 1250.

Other

Rick Mitchell (D)

If elected, my first act will be to add my name to House Bill 1660, which proposes single-payer health care for all Pennsylvanians. This means that whenever you are sick you can walk into your doctor's office or any hospital and have all the care you need, for as long as you need it, with the calm assurance that all the bills will be paid.

Pennsylvania should become a leader in producing alternative energy. To this end, more resources should be devoted to developing this area. This will have multiple benefits to the environment, to the economy, and to the consumer.

Education is very important. Whatever can be done on the State level to repeal "No Child Left Behind" and restore balance to the educational process, should be done. Strong public education is vital to the future success of our society.

While I can't say unequivocally that I'd vote against all new taxes, I am opposed to new taxes that simply get added to the General Fund.

District 5

Not Responding: John Alward (D), John Evans (R-Incumbent)

State House candidates' websites

To learn more about each candidate, for State Representative, you can visit their websites:

Pat Harkins www.patharkins.com

Flo Fabrizio www.pahouse.com/fabrizio

John Hornaman www.pahouse.com/Hornaman/

Rick Mitchell http://www.mitchellforpa.com/ Jason Owen www.votejasonowen.com/

No website found for John Alward or Joe Pfadt

National News Briefs

by Bob

Christian Right Calls for Day of Silence boycott

With the National Day of Silence planned for April 25, the American Family Association is urging parents to keep their children home from school that day. The Day of Silence, first organized in 1996, encourages students to remain voiceless for a day to represent the silence faced by LGBT people and their allies. Hundreds of schools across the country now participate in the event.

"DOS leads the students to believe that every person who identifies as a homosexual, bisexual or cross-dresser is a victim of ongoing, unrelenting harassment and hate," the AFA said in a mass email.

"Students are taught that homosexuality is a worthy lifestyle, homosexuality has few or no risks, and individuals are born homosexual and cannot change. Those who oppose such teaching are characterized as ignorant and hateful bigots."

The AFA is asking parents to inform their schools that they will not allow their children to attend that day. They also want parents to explain to their children that "homosexual behavior is not an innate identity; it's a sinful, unnatural and destructive behavior."

The Day of Silence is coordinated by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Literary Classic Heads for Broadway

Armistead Maupin's literary classic "Tales of the City" is heading for Broadway, according to *Variety*.

The new production is being penned as a musical by "Avenue Q" book writer Jeff Whitty, along with Scissor Sisters band members Jason Sellards and John Garden. It is slated to hit the stage during the 2009-2010 season.

The story follows Maupin's quirky characters, seen through the eyes of a young Midwestern woman, who encounters them in 1970s San Francisco.

While the budget for the proposed show has not been determined, producers Jeffery Seller, Robyn Goodman and Kevin McCullum said they expect the musical to be a large-scale production.

The musical will focus primarily on stories from the original 1978 "Tales of the City" book, the first of seven in the series, *Variety* reported. "Tales of the City" has been adapted for television in three miniseries that have aired on PBS and Showtime.

Lawmaker's Rant Caught on Video

The recent anti-gay rant of an Oklahoma state lawmaker was caught on video by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and posted on YouTube.

In a speech delivered to about 50 people at an Oklahoma county Republican club, Rep. Sally Kern, an Oklahoma City Republican, criticized gay people for indoctrinating children, lamented the growing number of gay politicians and said gays will "destroy this nation."

The gay community, she said, poses a "bigger threat, even more so than terrorists or Islam," to the United States. The video, called "I'm listening," was posted March 7 and recorded by someone who is a *(continued on next page)*



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http://gayellowpages.com

National News Briefs

friend of the gay community but is not gay himself, according to Victory Fund president and CEO Chuck Wolfe. Victory Fund is a national organization that works to elect openly LGBT people.

In the speech, Kern also said the gay lifestyle has deadly consequences, claiming that gays have higher suicide rates, feel more discouraged, are more frequently ill and have shorter life spans.

"As a matter of fact, studies show that no society that has embraced homosexuality has lasted more than a few decades," she said. "It's the death knell of this country."

Kern also accused gays of influencing school curricula to brainwash children into accepting their lifestyle. "You know why they're trying to get early childhood education?" she said. "They want to get our young children into government schools so they can indoctrinate them. They're going after our young children, as young as 2 in age, to try to teach them that the homosexual lifestyle is acceptable."

Wolfe noted that reasonable people who listen to the recording aren't going to believe "there's a lot of logic" to what Kern is saying, but he worried about the effect of having such a person serve as an elected official.

Log Cabin Leader has Change of Heart

The president of the Log Cabin Republicans chapter in Houston has had a change of heart. Noel Freeman is resigning his position, as well as resigning from the national gay GOP organization, and is supporting Sen. Barak Obama for President.

Nonpartisan candidates' info online

These websites offer nonpartisan information on voting records, contributors and more Project Vote Smart www.votesmart.org/ OpenSecrets.org www.opensecrets.org Congress.org www.congress.org

Freeman represents a much-talked-about class of crossover and independent voters who appear to be attracted to Obama. A recent Pew poll found that Obama edges out McCain among independents by 49 percent to 43 percent in a general election match-up -- a figure that does not account for Republicans who might also vote for the Illinois senator. The Clinton camp argues that GOP voters will back away from Obama once they are more familiar with his voting record and progressive stances on issues such as gun control.

As president of Houston's Log Cabin group since August 2006, Freeman had been struggling with the idea of changing parties.

"I've thought long and hard about becoming a Democrat," Freeman said. "I believe that of all the candidates out there, Barack Obama is the one candidate who is most sincerely interested in healing some of the partisan damage that has been caused to our nation over the past 12-16 years." Freeman added that he would not support Sen. Hillary Clinton if she is the nominee because he doesn't believe Clinton is interested in bridging partisan divides.

Freeman said his military history also factored into his decision. He spent four years on active duty as an intelligence analyst in the Air Force and was a ROTC cadet at Texas A&M University before being discharged in 2000 under "don't ask, don't tell."

After leaving the Air Force, he took time off from the ROTC program, but returned to find that he was still allowed to be a cadet. "I ended up being the first openly gay cadet in A&M history to go all the way through and complete the Corps of Cadets program," he said.

Maryland Sex Education Program Includes LGBT lessons

A new sex education program approved by the Montgomery County, MD, board of education includes lessons about what it means to be gay or lesbian, according to *The Washington Post*.

The final lesson plan, designed for the eighth and 10th grades, says little about how people become gay.

The lessons, approved by a unanimous vote of the board, mark the first time Montgomery County schools will introduce the topics of sexual orientation and homosexuality. Barring intervention by the courts,

Letters

Why LGBT People Support Obama

I've done a lot of research and have decided that Sen. Barack Obama is the best candidate for the LGBT community and for taking back the White House.

Unlike the other Democrat in the race, Sen. Obama supports repealing the entire "Defense of Marriage Act" that was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. "DOMA" essentially denies same-sex couples more than 1,100 federal benefits enjoyed by married opposite-sex couples.

Jeremy Bishop, executive director of the LGBT union advocacy group Pride at Work, has said DOMA is a major obstacle to equal access to health and pension benefits: "If you got rid of DOMA, all these different unions and companies who say we can't give benefits because you're not recognized by the federal government, all that would change in a heartbeat."

Sen. Obama has taken a bold stand on this issue. Equally important, he has championed our issues in front of tough audiences.

As he said in his open letter to the LGBT community earlier this year, "having the right positions on the issues is only half the battle. The other half is to win broad support for those positions ... We need to bring the message of LGBT equality to skeptical audiences as well as friendly ones – and that's what I've done throughout my career. ... I have been talking about LGBT equality to a number of groups during this campaign – from local LGBT activists to rural farmers to parishioners at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta,

EGN POSITION ON CANDIDATES INFORMATION

Erie Gay News does not endorse candidates, and publication of letters and activities in support of candidates should not be seen as an endorsement.

Last month we published a letter from a supporter of Hillary Clinton, and in this issue we are publishing a letter we received from a supporter of Barack Obama.

For more information about the positions that Clinton and Obama have taken with regard to GLBT issues, visit the Human Rights Campaign website at www.hrc.org/news/8960.htm

where Dr. Martin Luther King once preached."

Sen. Obama has also shown an ability to bring people together, both in the Illinois state legislature and in Congress, to get positive things done. Recent polls confirm that out of the two Democratic candidates, he has a much better opportunity to contest 30 or more states in the November election and to move us closer to the 60 votes we need in the U.S. Senate to pass important bills that would help LGBT Americans, like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

To learn more about Sen. Obama's record, please visit the LGBT area of his website at http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/lgbthome -- and if you'd like to help elect him, his Erie office is at 25 E. 10th St., corner of French Street, or you can sign up at http://my.barackobama.com.

Ben Turner

co-founder and former co-chair, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats Harrisburg



Java Buzz

At Brother Bean

Brother Bean Global Coffeehouse is at 2803 State Route 257, Seneca, P.A. Phone: (814) 677-0232

On April 1 at 7 PM there will be a Civil liberties discussion group with the theme "Torture, Law, & American Values." Facilitated by Jim Fisher, associate professor of Political Science at Edinboro University, this discussion group is sponsored by the Northwest Pennsylvania chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and is offered to the public without charge. All viewpoints are welcome

Upcoming shows:

Apr 5 2008 Justin Parson 7:00PM

Apr 12 2008 Signal Home/acoustic and Fleets 7:00PM

Apr 19 2008 Remora Deign 7:00PM

Apr 26 2008 Newmen 7:00PM

May 3 2008 Jeff Wiley 7:00P

May 8 2008 Hello Tokyo 7:00PM

May 10 2008 Lonesome No More 7:00PM

May 17 2008 Greg Koons 7:00PM

Eclectic Etceteras line-up

118 Erie St., Edinboro, PA www.myspace.com/eecoffee-house.

Mar 28 - Tom Link 5-7PM.

Mar 29 - Double Music Saturdays. TJ Broscoff CD release 11AM-1PM followed by Rasta Mike 1-3PM

Apr 4 from 5-7 pm Frank Marzano 5-7PM

Apr 5 - Alicia Romano 1-3PM

Apr 11 - Veterans Status 5-7PM with Congressional candidate Kyle Foust stopping by during the show. Apr 12 - Julia Rose 11AM-1PM followed by Patchouli 1-3PM

Apr 18 - Newman the Band from 5-7 pm

Apr 19 -Solace Sovay 1-3PM

Apr 23 - Special event for make-a-wish Wednesday. Check website for details. Open late that night.

Apr 25 - Justin Rosario 5-7PM

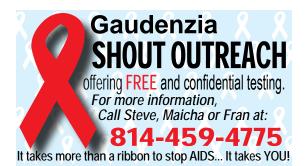
Apr 26 - Title Me Wrong 1-3PM

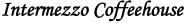
May 3 from 1-3 pm Greg Adkins

Zodiac Dinor performers

2516 State St, Erie P.A. (814) 455-3543

Zodiac has now added acoustic performers on Friday night, open mic comedy on Saturdays. Proudly here to support the community. Contact the Zodiac for organization fundraisers. Having monthly dinner parties at 7 PM on Apr 24 & May 22. Tickets are \$10 and include food buffet, dessert, beverages. For more info, call the diner at (814) 455-3543.





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Out & About

Comedy Night at the Zodiac Dinor. Top: Pete and Chris Pollitt. Middle: Jo Hyatt and Dawn Beale. Bottom: Chris posing with possibly the gayest lampshade in the world. To see all of the photos, as well as photo galleries dating back to 1995, browse to www.eriegaynews.com/







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