



### The Most Effective Form of Communication on April 18— Silence

*By: Michael R. Komo*

On Wednesday, April 18, students in every grade participated in the National Day of Silence at McDowell High School. This year, over 300 students in grades nine through 12 took a vow of silence.

The Day of Silence is a student-led day of action where people who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in school are silent for a day. Participants include LGBT students and their supporters.

The Gay-Straight Alliance at school organized the event, like it does every year. I am the President but could not have set everything up by myself. I had the help of my co-officers in order to make the day as successful as we could. Last year, there were just over 250 participants. This year, there were over 300 participants. I achieved my goal for participation for the event this year. Although I will not be at McDowell next year, nor will I be presiding over the GSA, I set the goal at 350 students for the 2008 Day of Silence.

I am confident in the support of our students. There is no doubt in my mind that the number of supporters will grow each year. Discrimination against LGBT people is becoming more unacceptable everyday. People are not sitting by and letting it happen. They are taking action to help ensure that one day it will cease to exist.

### UU garage sale June 15-16

*from Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie*

The annual 125+ Family Garage Sale will be held June 15 and 16 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. The sale runs from 9 AM - 1 PM each day, with numbers available at the door at 8 AM.

The church is located 2 1/2 miles south of the Erie Zoo or 1/2 mile north from Exit 27 off I-90. Come



*Stephanie, Ellen, Jen and Bev at the GLENDA Northwest PA bowling night on May 19. More photos from the event on page 19.*

*PHOTO: James von Loewe*

see what treasures we have to offer this year - housewares, books and music, clothes and accessories, electronics and outdoor gear.

Don't forget to visit our bake sale and snack bar for extra shopping energy! For more information call 864-9300.

### Safe Net Full Moon Party

*from SafeNet*

An evening of great music, prizes and fun is planned on June 21 as SafeNet holds its Full Moon Party at Papermoon Restaurant Gallery and Jazz Club from 5:30 to 11 PM. The event benefits SafeNet Domestic Violence Network. For information visit [www.safeneterie.org](http://www.safeneterie.org)

Celebrity Bartenders at the Full Moon Party include State Rep. Pat Harkins, Phil and Heidi Kerner - Erie Powernetworking, Almi Clerkin- Erie Playhouse,

*(continued on page 4)*

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## EGN Rates & Data

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



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

**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Ad Design: Mike Lipiec**  
**Deadline for next issue: June 15 (Friday),  
will be out night of Tuesday, June 26.**

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.

## Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, Dale, James von Loewe and Aaron Hepfer for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King, Gary Snyder, Brian How and Dale 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.

# ERIE PRIDE PICNIC 2007



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For more information call:  
**814-456-9833**



email [info@eriegaynews](mailto:info@eriegaynews)  
visit <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

State law prohibits alcohol at the Park.





*Steve Glassman, Chair of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, met with about 20 activists from around the area to discuss GLBT concerns. The meeting took place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie on May 20. More details and photos from that meeting at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)*



*Doris Cipolla and Rev. Steve Aschmann a rally to end the war, in downtown Erie May 2.*

*(continued from front page)*

Art Becker – Art Becker Photography, Dave Richards – Erie Times News, Norm Zymm – Manufacturers Association, Dennis and Shirley Williams – Atty/SafeNet Board President, Mark Soliday – WICU, Julie Eisemen – WICU, Doug Armstrong – MCA of NWPA, Wes Heersseen – Capt of US Brig Niagara, RJ Zona - United Way of Erie, Melessa LaFata – Quinn Law Firm, Keith Clelland – Attorney, Beth Dwyer – Attorney, Scott Bremner -WSEE, John Oliver- Erie Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Cyndy Patton – Saint Vincent Health System, Scott Mitchell – Erie Zoo, Rebecca Grilmaldi – PennState, and others.

## Trance is now Trance Night Club

Please note! Trance has changed its name to Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar. Their web site is now <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

## 4th of July Parade

*from Tim Reim*

Anyone interested in participating in the Millcreek July 4 Parade is invited to gather 10 AM on July 4 at the vicinity of 12th St. and Marshall Ave. (the Erie Insurance building and also former site of Lizzy Bordon's.) Look for the Erie Peace and Justice banner.

All Erie County progressives, GLBT folks, their friends, families and supporters are invited to walk the parade route. Our community needs to see that there are thousands of committed citizens looking to make our community/world a better place to live, grow and play. Currently groups invited to join this progressive parade group include the Erie Peace and Justice Center, EGN/ Pride, the Green Party of Erie County, LEAD, the Erie Peace Initiative and the Benedictine and St. Joseph Sisters. Other groups that are invited to march are Erie Central Labor, the Erie County Environmental Coalition, various college affiliations and the Meadville Women in Black. Organization banners are permitted, but individual signs with political messages are not.

*From Michael Mahler: we had a few GLBT folks marching in last year's parade, after hearing about the plans to march relatively close to when the event happened. We had no problems worth mentioning and lots of folks smiled and waved! It was truly a fun experience!*

## Nicholas Keech - Anthony Knepper to marry

Nicholas Keech and Anthony Knepper of Erie announce that they will be married July 13, 2007. There will also be an engagement picnic on June 3 from 2 to 4 at Glenwood Park.



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# Calendar

This calendar is also online at [www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html](http://www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html)

**May 23 - The Guys get together at Trance Night Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: four29 Media customer service. Phone: (888) 749-7073. Email: [four29media@gmail.com](mailto:four29media@gmail.com).

**May 25 - Memorial Day Kickoff at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 4 PM. Make it Memorable! The party starts on Friday May 25 on the Oasis. Join us on our newly renovated patio for live acoustic music, food, and summer drink specials. Indulge in some summer lovin' fun. Saturday we will continue to celebrate the sun, and Sunday starting at 3 PM you can join the fight to save rock and roll at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tranceapalooza all ages music event. The party starts at 4 PM! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**May 27 - 2nd Annual All Ages Tranceapalooza at Trance Night Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA.

This time we're starting early at 3 PM with a Memorial Day cookout on the patio, with acoustic stylings of Andy Berlin and Letters To The Dead. Then we'll move inside with 4 Under Par, Crimson Raid, Moving in Stereo, Pipeyard and Mas Nova. We hope to make this the biggest event of the year at Trance to kickoff your summer! We hope to see all of you there! Help save Rock N Roll! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

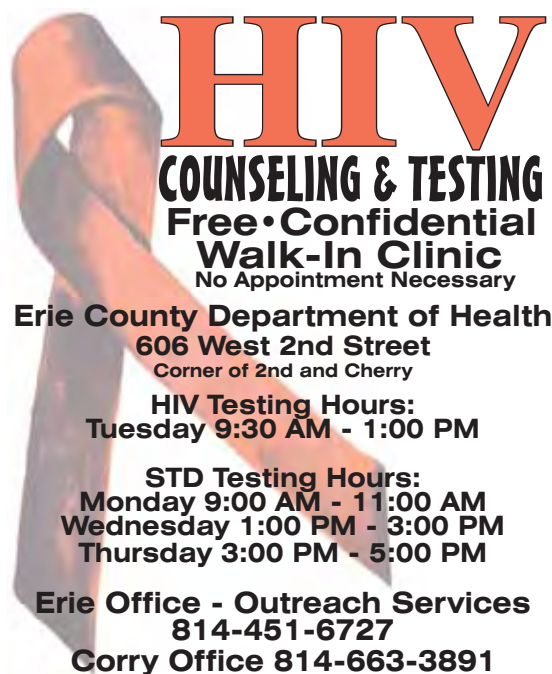
**May 27 - Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival** South Park Fairgrounds, 1900 Brownsville Road, South Park 15219. 11 AM. Live entertainment, club dancing, bar wars, food and beverages. Presale \$20, Gate \$25. (21 and over, ID required). Ask at The Zone if they will be doing a bus to the event. See ad in last month's issue, or visit [www.MemorialDayFestival.com](http://www.MemorialDayFestival.com)

**May 27 - Club Marcella White Party** 622 Main St Suite 101, Buffalo NY 14201. (716) 847-6850. [www.clubmarcella.com](http://www.clubmarcella.com)

**Jun 1 - Miss Erie Pageant 2007 "The Glamorous Life" at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA.



**Hedwig and the Angry Inch**  
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814-451-6727  
Corry Office 814-663-3891

# Calendar

Join us as we crown the new Miss Erie! An Elegant Evening of Entertainment! Applications and rules available at the bar! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Jun 2 - 15th Annual Pride Erie Picnic** Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. 1 PM - 6 PM. Annual family style picnic. We provide soft drinks, Sloppy Joes and hot dogs. Bring a dish to pass. Games, family portrait and fun! Contact: Michael. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>.

**Jun 2 - After Pride Picnic Party at Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar**, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) After the Picnic—we will continue our festivities at Trance Night Club Saturday June 2nd. Pride specials all night long. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**Jun 2 - Heaven - White Party at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. A night of Fantasy and Fun! One of our *biggest* events of the season! Wear White!

- White denim, White lace, White underwear, White toga! - just wear anything White! Grab your Angel wings and come dance on cloud 9! Get into the Zone! - your stairway to Heaven! Phone: (814) 452-0125. [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Jun 3 - Casino Night at Trance 1607** Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 3 PM - 8 PM. Proceeds go to Erie Gay Pride. Refreshments provided by Shout OutReach. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**Jun 13 - The Guys get together at Hookah Cafe** 129 W 14th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: four29 Media customer service. Phone: (888) 749-7073. Email: [four29media@gmail.com](mailto:four29media@gmail.com).

**Jun 15 - Performance: Shari Gross at Raphael's Tavern** 363 W 8th St, Erie, PA. Contemporary blues. 10 PM - 12 AM. Phone: (814) 454-1879. Email: [gaisong@verizon.net](mailto:gaisong@verizon.net).

*(continued on next page)*

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# Calendar

**Jun 15-16 - UU Erie Garage Sale** 9 PM - 1 AM. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie will be having a two-day garage sale. They are at 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 16508. Their web site is [www.uuerie.org](http://www.uuerie.org)

**Jun 16 - The Original Glow Party at the Zone!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) One of your favorite parties is back! Glow sticks and Blacklights- Dance in the dark! - Get ready as we dim the lights low so you can shine! Wear black or white or glow body paints if you dare! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Jun 21 - Safe Net Full Moon Party Papermoon Restaurant Gallery and Jazz Club** 5:30 - 11 PM Great Music, Great Prizes and a raffle See front page for details.

**Jun 22-24 - McKenzie-Hill Party Classic (Cleveland)** Black, Gay and Proud weekend of events. Includes a meet and greet dance, family picnic and a brunch and gospel concert cruise. \$105 for entire weekend, dance \$40, bring-your-own-basket picnic \$10, cruise \$70, reservations June 4. Contact: [rmvh573@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmvh573@sbcglobal.net), (216) 691-8923, [rbcoho@gmail.com](mailto:rbcoho@gmail.com)

**Jun 23 - Midsummer Night's Romp at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Ready for a Midsummer's Night Romp? Come frolic at Trance on Saturday, June 23. Drop 'em and Drink specials! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**Jun 24 - Trance Benefit for Buddy Dobson** Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 3 PM - 6 PM. Entertaining Erie!

We have the best of Erie's talent—Dance! Music! Drag! showcased for you on Sunday June 24th. Refreshments provided. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Proceeds benefit our dear friend Buddy Dobson. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**Jun 29- The Bugle Boy of Company Z! - The Zone Diva's Star-Spangled U.S.O. Show!** Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Army!- Navy!- Air Force!- Marines!... Join the Pin-Up Girls of the Zone as they perform a Star-Spangled Salute to the U.S.A.! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Jun 30- Uncle Sam's Indepen-Dance Daze! at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. We're looking for a few good Men and Women to Celebrate the good ole' USA at the Zone's U.S.O. Independence Day Party! Wear Red, White, Blue!... or Military Uniform from the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines! Polish those Boots and join us for some Off-Duty FUN! Dress as Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty, or wear FUN patriotic Boxers! Parade on in and dance under the Fireworks on the Dance-floor as we light up the night! American PRIDE!- Gay FUN! Don't be AWOL- Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

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

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



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



# On stage

*Selected area cultural events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences.*

**May 11-Jun 2** - **“Sordid Lives”** at Buffalo United Artists, Alleyway Theater, Buffalo NY. [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org)

**Opening May 25** - **“Hedwig and the Angry Inch”** at Roadhouse Theatre, 145 West 11th Street, Erie, PA 16502 (814) 456-5656. Featuring Alex Bolla, Christine Volk, Rick DiBello, Graham Scott, Lea Bodine and Tom Kitchen. Musical theater play about a rock and roll band fronted by an East German transgender singer. [www.roadhousetheatre.org](http://www.roadhousetheatre.org)

**Jun 8** - **Tribute to the Music of Aaron Copeland** 7:30 PM St. Patrick's Church, 130 East 4th, Erie, Erie Chamber Orchestra Free, however, seating is limited and on a first come first served basis. [www.velocity.net/~eco1/season.htm](http://www.velocity.net/~eco1/season.htm)

**Jun 8-24** - **“The Full Monty”** Erie Playhouse 454-2852 x0 [www.erieplayhouse.org](http://www.erieplayhouse.org)

**Jun 13** - **“True Colors Tour”** in Columbus Ohio at Schottenstein Center. Hosted by Margaret Cho. Cyndi Lauper, Deborah Harry, Erasure The Dresden Dolls, The Gossip, The Misshapes. Part of 15-city tour to raise awareness of GLBT issues. Tour website: [www.truecolorstour.com](http://www.truecolorstour.com)

**Jun 14-24** - **Pittsburgh Pride Theater Festival** The “Pittsburgh Pride Theater Festival” is a showcase of plays by local playwrights on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender theme. (412) 288-0358.

**Jun 15** - **Performance: Shari Gross at Raphael's Tavern** 363 W 8th St, Erie, PA. 10 PM - 12 AM. Contemporary blues. (814) 454-1879. [giasong@verizon.net](mailto:giasong@verizon.net).

**Jun 15-16** - **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: “The Colors of Our Lives”** 6/15th UU Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood, 6/16 First Presbyterian Church 1 Symphony Circle. [www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/)

**Jun 16 and 17** - **North Coast Men's Chorus “A Time for Us”** Pride concert [www.ncmchorus.org](http://www.ncmchorus.org)

**Jun 19** - **“The True Colors Tour”** in Toronto at the Molson Amphitheatre. Hosted by Margaret Cho. Cyndi Lauper, Deborah Harry, Erasure, The Dresden Dolls, The Gossip, The Misshapes. Tour website: [www.truecolorstour.com](http://www.truecolorstour.com)

**Jul 7** - **Rachael Sage at Eclectic Etceteras** 118 Erie St. Edinboro PA 1 PM. (814) 734-2909.



PHOTO: Danielle Hodermy

*Christine Volk (l) and Alex Bolla (r) at the Beer Mug May 5, performing songs from the rock musical “Hedwig and the Angry Inch,” opening at the Roadhouse Theatre May 25. They performed with the Hedwig band, called “Angry Wigs.” (not shown) whose members are Tom Kitchen on drums, Rick DiBello on guitar, Graham Scott on keys and Lea Bodine on bass guitar.*

**Jeremy**  
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Lic. NCBTMB/ACE

## What is the Erie Summer Festival of the Arts all about?

by Scott Palermo

The 39th Erie Summer Festival of the Arts is about strolling through Pepsi Liberty Park, enjoying the juried crafters and what they have to offer, and watching the artists do art works.

You can attend various concerts on the main stage that have featured such performers in the past as: Chuck Mangione, The Four Tops, Juice Newton, BJ Thomas, Lee Greenwood and the Paul Winter Consort to name just a few.

Look at the Erie Times News Showcase on Thursday June 21, for the schedule and who will perform on the main stage. You can enjoy the professional juried art exhibit, now called the Ruth Jageman Panorama Juried Art Exhibit, after the longtime advocate of the arts. The art show is on display at Blasco Library. Have your children enjoy making a few craft items, get their faces painted, listen to story time, watch a puppet show, listen to a concert especially geared to children.... all in a safe environment!

You can satisfy your hunger with the offering of the many juried food vendors available on site at a reasonable cost. You can place a blanket or a lawn chair and listen to some great music while you watch the sun set over the bay while a few sailboats float by.

The 39th Erie Summer Festival of the Arts will take place on June 22 - 24 at the Pepsi Liberty Park. The theme of this year's festival is "You've got to have Arts!" This is a family oriented three day event.

This festival and its Board of Directors is all volunteer, who raise the monies needed to bring this Summer Festival of the Arts to the Erie Community for free each year! Some of our supporters are: Northwestern Port Authority, Scott Enterprises, Smith Provisions, Millcreek Township, Erie County Council, PA Lottery, Mazza Wines, PA State House, to name some on the long list. Thanks to the efforts of hundred of volunteers and the ongoing support of every segment of the community, the Erie Summer Festival of the Arts has survived and grown for the past three decades.

In 2006 the presidency was assumed by Betty McCleery after Prof. Annmarie George, and a well-known arts advocate, the late Ruth Jageman, under whose leadership, the festival expanded and took on a new vibrancy. Again, the dates of festival are: June 22, 23, 24, 2007. Let's remember the memory of Ruth Jageman and we invite you to come and support the festival..... If you would like to volunteer or become a sponsor of the Erie Summer Festival of the Arts, you may contact President Betty McCleery at (814) 838-1422 or her assistant Scott Vince Palermo at (814) 866-6816.

### 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?
- 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!



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[www.safeneterie.org](http://www.safeneterie.org)

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# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Gay Rights Group Launches Campaign Against Religious Right

In an effort to prevent religious conservatives from pressuring presidential candidates to oppose gay-rights issues, LGBT advocates have launched a campaign to challenge the far right in the early primary and caucus states.

Faith In America, the group heading the campaign, is focusing on Iowa, South Carolina, New Hampshire and Nevada. The group's goal is to set the tone for the presidential campaign and not cede the debate to the religious right.

"The end point will be when we have various religious leaders not trying to intimidate various presidential candidates," said Mitchell Gold, head of the group.

The group plans a town hall meeting in Ames, IA on May 31, with similar efforts planned in the other early-voting states. To get their message out to the voters, the group plans grassroots organizing, direct mail and paid advertisements in traditional media in those states.

Iowa, the first caucus state, has dealt with several gay issues this year. During the recent legislative session, Iowa lawmakers worked to protect students from being bullied because of their sexual orientation, and they added gays and lesbians to the list of people protected under the state's civil rights laws.

Steve Scheffler, head of the Iowa Christian Alliance, said his group would continue letting candidates know it opposed expansion of gay rights.

"It is a defining issue," Scheffler said. "Those are going to be some of the issues we are going to cover. You bet it's a big thing."

## Expanded Hate Crime Bill Protects LGBT Individuals

The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to expand federal hate crime categories to include violent attacks against gays and people targeted because of gender. Similar legislation is being considered in the U.S. Senate but the White House is already threatening to veto the measure.

The House bill, which passed by a vote of 237-180, would also make it easier for federal law enforcement agencies to take part in or assist with local prosecutions involving bias-motivated attacks. Locally, Congressman Phil English of Erie voted for the bill while Congressman John Peterson of Pleasantville opposed it.

*(continued on next page)*

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# National News Briefs

*(continued from previous page)*

“This is an important vote of conscience, of a statement of what America is, a society that understands that we accept differences,” said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD).

The vote came after fierce lobbying from both civil rights groups, who support the measure, and social conservatives, who claim the bill threatens the right to express moral opposition to homosexuality.

In announcing its opposition, the White House said state and local laws already cover the new crimes defined under the bill and there was “no persuasive demonstration of any need to federalize such a potentially large range of violent crime enforcement.”

“Our criminal justice system has been built on the ideal of equal justice for all,” said Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX). “Under this bill justice will no longer be equal, but depend on the race, sex, sexual orientation, disability or status of the victim.”

In a parliamentary move that would have effectively killed the bill, Republicans tried to add seniors

and the military to those qualifying for hate crimes protection. That effort was defeated on a mainly party-line vote.

Under current federal law hate crimes apply to acts of violence against individuals on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin. Federal prosecutors have jurisdiction only if the victim is engaged in a specific federally protected activity such as voting.

The House bill would extend the hate crimes category to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability and give federal authorities greater leeway to participate in hate crime investigations.

According to FBI statistics, there have been more than 113,000 hate crimes reported in the United States since 1991. Racially motivated bias accounted for 55 percent of those incidents, religious bias for 17 percent, sexual orientation bias for 14 percent and ethnicity bias for 14 percent.

## McCain says Gay Troops Pose “Intolerable Risk”

In a letter to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, U.S. senator and Republican presidential candidate John McCain said that gay troops pose “an intolerable risk” to national security.

“I believe polarization of personnel and breakdown of unit effectiveness is too high a price to pay for well-intentioned but misguided efforts to elevate the interests of a minority of homosexual service members above those of their units,” McCain said in the April 16 letter to the group.

“Most importantly, the national security of the United States, not to mention the lives of our men and women in uniform, are put at grave risk by policies detrimental to the good order and discipline which so distinguish America’s armed services.”

McCain, who voted in favor of the current “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy when it was enacted in 1993, concluded that “I remain opposed to the open expression of homosexuality in the U.S. military.”

“Senator McCain’s comments are out of step with the overwhelming majority of the American people, and out of touch with the best interests of our armed forces,” said Sharra Greer, the



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# National News

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's director of law and policy.

"Senator McCain's defense of this counterproductive law is disrespectful to the more than 65,000 lesbian and gay service members on duty today."

## LGBT Rights Bills Becomes Law in Oregon

Oregon has joined a growing list of states offering same-sex couples some of the benefits of marriage.

The state's governor, Democrat Ted Kulongoski, has signed legislation creating domestic partnerships for same-sex couples in the state starting Jan. 1. He also signed a bill that outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation, effective the same date.

In signing the bills, Gov. Kulongoski, said they would "transform our state from one of exclusion to one of complete inclusion."

The domestic partnership law will enable same-sex couples to enter into contractual relationships that carry many of the benefits offered to married couples. The other law will ban discrimination against LGBT people in employment, housing and access to public accommodations.

To date, only Massachusetts allows same-sex couples to marry. Vermont, Connecticut, California, New Jersey, Maine and Washington have laws allowing either civil unions or domestic partnerships, and Hawaii extends certain spousal rights to same-sex couples and cohabiting heterosexual pairs.

The New Hampshire legislature recently passed a civil unions law that Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat, has said he will sign.

## Immigration Equality Bill Introduced in Congress

Federal lawmakers have reintroduced a bill in Congress giving Americans with same-sex foreign partners equal rights under U.S. immigration law.

The Uniting American Families Act, sponsored by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), will allow citizens and legal residents in same-sex relationships to sponsor their partners for immigration purposes.

According to Immigration Equality and the Human Rights Campaign, about 75 percent of the immigrant visas (Green Cards) currently in effect are issued to family members of U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Same-sex couples however, have no legal status under federal law.

"The promotion of family unity has long been part of federal immigration policy, and this bill promotes that principle by providing all Americans the opportunity to be with their loved ones," said Rachel Tiven, executive director of Immigration Equality.

A University of California study, based on the 2000 Census, reported that there are an estimated 35,820 bi-national same-sex couples in the United States.

"Our bill recognizes that American families come in all shapes and sizes," Rep. Nadler said. "Our laws should work to keep loving families together and not tear them apart."

At least 19 nations, including Great Britain, Brazil, Australia and most of Western Europe, provide some immigration benefits to the same-sex partners of citizens and permanent residents.

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## The Upper Room

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer

I never really liked school. So, it surprised me when I finished four years of college and then three years of seminary. This was a cause for celebration but first I needed a little peace and quiet to let it all sink in.

I decided the best place to be alone with my thoughts was the chapel. However upon entering I soon decided this was *not* going to be the best place. There were people talking in the corner, the custodian was sweeping the floors and the chaplain was cleaning off the altar. Since this place was not going to work, I hurried across campus and found a little room under the stairs in the dorm where all was quiet and the noise of the world was locked out.

Life is like that. Those places and times we are certain should give us opportunity for spiritual rest and relaxation, turn out to be noisy and confused. Sometimes we have to find refuge in more unlikely places. This is the backdrop of the situation we read about in John, chapters 13-14. The sayings of Jesus that we read were said not in the Temple or even in a synagogue.

We might expect the words of Jesus to be said in some holy place or shrine since Jesus is after all, preaching a sermon. And its actually one of the most important sermons Jesus ever preached. But, he is not at a pulpit when preaching it. He is not even in a place of worship. He and his disciples are sitting at a dining room table.

More than once, in an upper room, Jesus told his disciples that they were not to be troubled. Even though fearful events were in the future, they were not to be alarmed because God was with them. So from that little room, that crowded space, that very ordinary situation, Jesus gave them big, great, reassuring, profound thoughts.

I was once asked a question that I could not answer. "Why were there synagogues in Jesus' day?" They had the Temple which was beautiful beyond description, with gold and silver and the wood. Then there were the synagogues dotting the countryside and they were anything but glamorous. They were small and homely in appearance compared to the Temple. So, why have them?

They served an important function in the everyday life of the Jewish believers in Jesus' day. They were little places; the gathering places where traveling rabbis were invited to pray and read scripture and preach.

Jesus knew that the Temple could be very noisy. When he went there to throw the money-changers out, they were shouting like carnival barkers eagerly trying to sell sacrifices to the bidders. It was exciting to worship in the Temple, but, sometimes you need the quiet, little, out-of-the-way synagogues to meditate and pray. Sometimes the little places off the beaten path is the place to meet God.

We must remember that Christianity began at little places like upper rooms, filled with little people who held everyday jobs in little towns much like Nazareth of Galilee. Our Christian faith takes place in the little places of the heart. It is in a small upper room that Jesus tells his disciples that the Holy Spirit will come upon them. The church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. It is not a glamorous place for the Holy Spirit to make its appearance, but, even Jesus' birth was not glamorous, occurring in an animal filled stable.

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit comes to teach us; to remind; and to give us peace. In other words, the Spirit of God touches us at the small places of our hearts. At those places where we need to be taught the challenges of God's love; that we love one another, even as God has loved us. The Spirit of God moves in the small places and challenges us in ordinary ways and tells us that our hearts need not be troubled either in life or death because God's Spirit comes to our aid no matter where we are.

*Rev. Richard Moyer is the pastor at Community United Church located at W 38<sup>th</sup> and Cascade.*

*Stay updated!*

Subscribe to the Erie GLBT Mailing List  
Visit [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

## Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference

On June 26 - July 1, the Annual Exodus International Conference will be in Irvine, California, to promote the false message that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are disordered, sinful, and in need of change.

In response, Soulforce, BeyondExGay.com, and the LGBT Resource Center at the University of California-Irvine are proud to present an interactive, community-building conference featuring the powerful stories of those who have had ex-gay experiences, but now understand that their sexual orientation or gender identity can be lived in ways that are loving and life-affirming.

The Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference: "Undoing the Damage, Affirming our Lives Together" is being held on June 29 - July 1, 2007 at the University of California - Irvine. The Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference is a thoughtful response to the Exodus International Conference being held during the same timeframe. The Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference is an interactive, community-building conference featuring the powerful stories of those who have had ex-gay experiences, but now understand that their sexual orientation or gender identity can be lived in ways that are loving and life-affirming. For information on the conference, visit Soulforce <http://www.soulforce.org/>

**'God did not create gays and lesbians so  
He could have something to hate!'**

**Bishop Troy Perry**

**Founder, Metropolitan Community Church**

## On Jerry Falwell

On May 15, 2007, Rev. Jerry Falwell passed away.

For links to a variety of thoughts and commentary on Rev. Falwell, particularly of interest for to GLBT community, please visit the Erie Gay News website at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

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# Michael dithers

by Mike Mahler

As I am writing this, I just got back from the delightful bowling fundraiser that GLENDA had in Meadville at Plaza Lanes. They had a very good turn out (40-50 people) and just a great feel! Everyone was friendly and pleasant. The group does a lot of volunteer work (like helping at the Humane Society) and networking. They also include straight folks as well. I should probably mention that my bowling skills (okay, let's just say motor skills in general) are pretty crappy, but it felt like a really supportive environment. If you get the chance, check out their next event. We will hopefully have something from them soon.

Is everyone all geared up for the 15th Annual Pride Picnic on June 2? We will see you at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park from 1 to 5 PM. Full details are at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. We are asking folks to register at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>. (And yes, volunteers are very much appreciated.) Huge thanks to all of the terrific people and businesses that make the event such a success! What really means a lot to me is that we get such a wide variety of people every year. The reason I feel so strongly about having the picnic is that I see it as an important way to build community and make friends.

It was very sad to hear about the passing of Donny Samples. He was a truly kind man, and I don't think that I ever heard him say a mean thing about anyone. Whenever I would be out and see him playing pool, he always had a ready smile and a cheerful word. Sometimes, the most important things that we can do is simply to be friendly and decent human beings.

It's not a particularly gay thing, but I have also been having a blast with the Erie Blogger get togethers over the past year. I think I am probably the only gay person in the group, but it is very welcoming. The last get together was quite diverse: over the course of the evening, I chatted with a disability advocate, a Christian stay at home mom, a film producer (who knew that there were so many films being produced in Erie?), a woman who sometimes performs in erotic videos and a meteorologist. Just like the Pride Picnic, I feel strongly about the emotional tone of a group.

See you at the Pride Picnic on June 2!

# Regularly meeting

**Always Our Children** Jun 6, Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. First time attendees should call facilitator before attending meeting. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

**Deadline for print edition of Erie Gay News** Jun 15, Jul 15, Aug 15, EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

**Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD)** Jun 4, Jul 2, Aug 6, 218 E 11th St, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Chris Mitchell. Phone: (814) 899-8920. Email: [president@erielead.org](mailto:president@erielead.org). Browse to [www.erielead.org](http://www.erielead.org)

**PFLAG Erie/Crawford County** Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 13, Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark H pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Phone: John at (814) 454-1392.

**Support group for those dealing with loss** Jun 12 at 7 PM, Jun 21 at 10 AM, Jul 10 at 7 PM, Jul 19 at 10 AM, May 7 at 7 PM, May 16 at 10 AM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: [hospice@velocity.net](mailto:hospice@velocity.net).

**The Guys** May 23, Jun 13, Various locations, Erie, PA, 7 PM. Informal get together for gay/bi men at local establishments. Contact: four29 Media customer service. Phone: (888) 749-7073. Email: [four29media@gmail.com](mailto:four29media@gmail.com).

Deadline for the next issue is  
June 15



Check Out Our Website at: [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
for our list of locations



# On TV in June

June is Pride Month, and the choices for TV viewing get a little more interesting.

In celebration of June's Gay Pride Month, **Turner Classic Movies (TCM)** will present *Screened Out: Gay Images in Film*, a month-long, on-air film presentation of the varied concepts, stereotypes and imagery of gays and lesbians as represented in classic Hollywood cinema. [www.tcm.com](http://www.tcm.com)

**After Elton.com** previews gay/bi male TV viewing by the week at their **Queerview** feature <http://www.afterelton.com> and **TV Gay Guide** has extensive GLBT-interest listings at [www.queery.com/tvgayguide](http://www.queery.com/tvgayguide)

Western New York, as always, benefits from the fact that the Buffalo PBS affiliate (**WNED**) is partnered with gay-friendly Toronto, resulting in a month of educational GLBT programming. Visit [www.wned.org](http://www.wned.org)

BBC America announces that **Footballers Wive\$** premieres on June 6 at 8 PM, providing a campy drama about the lives of fictional soccer stars.



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# Coffeehouses

What's coming up at GLBT-friendly coffeehouses in the region. We're going to be expanding this feature in the months to come.

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*Eclectic Etceteras* is at 118 Erie St., Edinboro, PA (814) 734-2909 [www.myspace.com/ecoffeehouse](http://www.myspace.com/ecoffeehouse)

Jerry Gaff on Saturday, May 26 from 1-3 PM

Christopher Bell on Friday, June 1 from 5-7 PM

Kevin Wilson on Saturday, June 9 from 1-3 PM

Rasta Mike on Saturday, June 16 from 1-3 PM

Johnathan Hepner Saturday, June 30 1-3 PM

Rachel Sage on Saturday, July 7 from 1-3 PM

Jamie Sue Seal on Friday, July 13 from 5-7 PM

## Heading Out of Town?

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# More summer events

*Compiled by Deb Spilko*

**Jun 22-24 - McKenzie-Hill Party Classic (Cleveland)** Black, Gay and Proud weekend of events. Includes a meet and greet dance, family picnic and a brunch and gospel concert cruise. \$105 for entire weekend, dance \$40, bring-your-own-basket picnic \$10, cruise \$70, reservations June 4. Contact: rmvh573@sbcglobal.net, (216) 691-8923, rbcoho@gmail.com

**June 23 Columbus Pride Parade and Festival (Columbus OH)** Parade steps off from Goodale Park in the Short North and marches on High St. to festival at Bicentennial Park downtown; 614-299-7764, www.stonewallcolumbus.org.

**June 24 - Day in the Sun (Akron OH)** Annual picnic and festival benefits the Akron Pride Center, food, dunk tank, games, entertainment, beer, \$10 advance, \$12 gate, 12 noon, Ohio Sportsman Club, 1775 Jacoby Rd, Copley (Akron); www.akronpridecenter.org, 330-785-0088.

**July 14-15 Streets of Pride (Rochester, NY)** For more information about Pride celebrations worldwide, visit [www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org). Event Link: [www.streetsofpride.com/](http://www.streetsofpride.com/)

**July 20-22 Folsom Street North (Toronto)** [www.ffnto.com/](http://www.ffnto.com/)

**August 26- Dancin' in the Streets** Outdoor dance party to benefit the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, 1 to 10 PM, Clifton Blvd. between West 116th and West 117th Sts., Cleveland. (216) 221-2333 or (216) 357-2223.

## TBA/Not yet confirmed

**Ashtagayla** TBA-probably mid-August, Ashtabula's wonderful midsummer event is back. For information call (440) 992-4247.

**Out on the Lake at Darien Lake** Probably mid-August.

**Ohio Lesbian Festival** may be held in some form this year, as a more inclusive and low key event. Details are still being worked out. [www.ohiolba.org](http://www.ohiolba.org)

## Also:

**Bear events** [www.bearguide.net/](http://www.bearguide.net/)

**OutSports** [www.outsports.com/](http://www.outsports.com/)

**Pride celebrations worldwide** visit [www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org)

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*Find clickable links at the online version of EGN at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)*



## Canadian Travel



What gay-friendly destinations are available to GLBT travelers? What ID is needed for border crossing? What events are happening there in the next few months?

For GLBT or general travel info for Canada visit GLBT <http://gay.canada.travel/us/>

# Out & About

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Photos from the GLENDA Northwest PA bowling party on May 19 at Plaza Lanes in Meadville. About 40 people attended. More photos from this event are online at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

Top (from left to right) Maxine, Philip, Travis and Ashley. Second Row: Ashley and Jimi; Sheryl and Lew; Mike and Jim. Third Row: Torrie and Brenda; Erin, Carie, David, Emily, Gary and Northern; Kim and Peggy

*Photos by James von Loewe*



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Saturday

June 16

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June 29

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*Divas Star Spangled*  
**U.S.O. Show!**

★ Saturday

June 30

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