

September 2007



# EGN



## Erie Gay News

### Show Your Pride on Aug. 25

by *Erie Gay Pride, Inc.*

Steve Glassman, chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, will be the featured speaker at this year's Erie Gay Pride March/Rally on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Glassman, who was appointed to his post by Gov. Ed Rendell, is the highest ranking, openly gay person in the Pennsylvania state government.

This year's Pride March/Rally is being organized by Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie County's newly incorporated LGBT organization.

Activities will begin with the Pride March down State Street beginning at The Zone Dance Club. The March will step off at 1 p.m. and follow State Street down to west Perry Square. Those who do not wish to march the entire length of the route are free to join the marchers anywhere along State Street. The Erie Police Department will be providing a motorcycle escort.

In addition to Glassman, the Pride Rally at west Perry Square will feature a line-up of speakers and entertainment. There will also be food and merchandise vendors as well as informational tables and displays. Everyone is invited to participate and become involved. Come out, show your PRIDE and tell everyone in Erie that the LGBT community is alive and strong!

Volunteers are also needed to assist at the event. Anyone who would like more information about the Aug. 25 Erie Gay Pride March/Rally, or who would like to volunteer, may call Brian at Erie Gay Pride, Inc., 1-866-229-1974 (toll free).

### New Orleans Picnic

by *Sandie*

Do you like southern foods like catfish, red beans and rice? If so, plan to attend the community New Orleans Picnic in Erie on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Although the picnic is dedicated to the Hurricane Katrina and Rita survivors and their families, everyone is welcome to attend. The festivities begin at 2 PM and are free of charge. Everyone attending is requested to bring



*Danielle Riccardi and Fionna Faulk at Ashtagayla celebration, held on August 18. More photos on page 15 and online at EGN website.*

PHOTO: *James von Loeve*

a Southern-style dish to share. Alcoholic beverages will be permitted but it will be a BYOB type picnic.

In addition to food, there will be New Orleans and southern music, fun and games. This family picnic is being held at a private individual's home. For directions, other information or to RSVP, email to [neworleansin-erie@gmail.com](mailto:neworleansin-erie@gmail.com)

For those traveling a distance, the hosts can accommodate some people and there is enough property for tents and a few camper trailers. This event is for straight, bisexual, gay and transgender people. It is a family-and-friends event open to anyone. We do ask all persons who attend to remember that children and families are welcome and will be attending so we ask to

*(continued on page 4)*

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**Erie Gay News**  
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**Editors:** Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler  
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**Deadline for next issue: Sep 15 (Saturday), will be out night of Tuesday, Sep 25.**

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.

**Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words! See page 4 for more info.**

## EGN Erie Gay News Rates & Data

<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
<b>HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL</b>	<b>EIGHTH PAGE</b>	

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
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide
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.

## Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, James von Loewe, Jack Walburn, Charles, Jodi Martinez and Roger Lawrence for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, Jack Walburn, Jodi Martinez, Brian How and Roger Lawrence 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.

**Sat, September 15**  
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# Community News

(continued from front page)

be on a good behavior state of mind.

Again the event is open to all, just as any New Orleans style Picnic.

## Face Photos at Pride March/Rally from Erie Gay News

Want to be included with the almost 200 people who have their face photos at the Erie Gay News Friends and Supporters page? We will have a table in Perry Square at the Pride March/Rally on August 25, and anyone who would like to have their individual photo taken, as well as a bio and optional link to a web page is welcome to do so. There is no charge for this. It is also okay to have an updated face photo taken as well.

We believe very strongly that one of the best ways to build community and to work for equality is simply to be visible. We have been happy to take photos of a wide spectrum of people in our community for years at Pride events. The most powerful weapon for equality is also one of the simplest: our faces!

## Lobbyist Training Workshop Planned

from Jake Kaskey, Equality Advocates of Pennsylvania

In an effort to help the LGBT community become a more effective voice for change, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania and the Value All Families Coalition, will be holding a Lobbyist Training Workshop at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Erie on Sunday, Aug. 26, from 1–3 PM.

All members of the LGBT and allied communities are encouraged to attend this workshop to learn more effective and innovative ways to organize in their communities and lobby decision-makers for LGBT-inclusive legislation. This workshop will provide an opportunity for all people interested in helping to pass statewide non-discrimination legislation to gain the necessary skills required to lobby state legislators. Representatives from Equality Advocates Pennsylvania and the Women's Law Project will facilitate the workshop.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Jake Kaskey at [jkaskey@equalitypa.org](mailto:jkaskey@equalitypa.org) or 1-866-LGBTLAW ext. 14.

## October events reminder

If you are organizing an event for GLBT History Month (October) or Coming Out Day (October 11), please get us the information by September 15 to make sure we can give your events timely publicity! That issue will be out on September 25.

(More Community News on page 6.)



# CLASSIFIEDS

**ONLY \$10** for 30 Words. **\$5** for Additional 15 Words.

## INEXPENSIVE, EFFECTIVE & FUN

EGN reserves the right to refuse any inappropriate classified.

### Church Music Director

Duties— choose music/songs (blend contemporary/traditional), play keyboard/piano during worship and preworship, cantor or work with cantor, lead choir. Compensation based upon skill/experience. Church is nondenominational, approximately 80% gay membership. Visit online for more information: [www.allsaintsonline.org](http://www.allsaintsonline.org) Mail resumes: All Saints Community Church, 4530 Niles-Cortland Road, Cortland, OH 44410, Attn: Tina H.

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4-8pm  
FRONTIER PARK  
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*"Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind" ~ Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

### **SPEAKERS**

Chris Gerhart – Iraq Vet  
Bob Johnson – Vietnam Vet  
Gary Horton – Saint James AME Church  
Dave Robinson – Pax Christi USA  
Pastor Dr. Michael Williams – Shiloh Baptist Church  
Mary Claire Kennedy – Sisters Of Saint Joseph  
Reverend Steve Aschmann – Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Linda Bebko-Jones – Former Assemblywoman

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This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant under  
the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

## Community News

### New Bereavement Support Group

A six-week Bereavement Support Group is being organized to help participants learn better and more effective ways to cope with grief, understand the grieving process and learn ways to find new hope in their lives.

The group, which begins Tuesday, Sept. 17, will meet at the Masonic Temple, 32 West 8th. St., Erie, under the direction of Dennis Chludzinski, M.S., M. Div. The price to participate is \$60. Materials and refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call Dennis at 453-5159 or 860-4019.

### Erie Sisters 2007 Gala

The Erie Sisters/LEG Management Team is in the process of finalizing plans for the 2007 Lake Erie Gala to be held Nov. 12-17. The annual fashion show held during the Gala has become the highlight of the year.

In preparation for the Gala, the Erie Sisters would like to talk with anyone in the GLBT community who manages a women's clothing store, boutique, or demonstrates in a home party plan.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Gala, feel free to check out the schedule on the Erie Sisters web site, [www.eriesisters.org](http://www.eriesisters.org), email at [eriesisters@eriesisters.org](mailto:eriesisters@eriesisters.org) or call 814-746-5524 (Verizon cell). Registrations are now open.

Deadline for next issue is  
SEPTEMBER 15



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# Calendar

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

**Aug 24 - Pre-PRIDE Party! at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) The Gay Rainbow starts at the Zone and ends at Perry Square! Join us for a night of *fun* as we Celebrate Gay Pride! Wear rainbow colors or PRIDE t-shirts and show off your True Colors as we begin Erie PRIDE Weekend!- Join us Saturday at Noon in the Zone parking lot for the start of the Erie Gay PRIDE March! Show your PRIDE! Thank you for making us your #1 Gay party destination! (814) 452-0125. [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Aug 25 - Step-off for the Erie PRIDE March! Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie. 12 - 1 PM. The Gay Rainbow starts at the Zone and ends at Perry Square! Join us pre-march for a light lunch as we assemble to march down State Street to Perry Square!- Wear your Zone or PRIDE t-shirts, bring a banner or sign, and the Zone will supply Rainbow flags and balloons to show off your Gay PRIDE! Check out the Zone PRIDE Booth at Perry Square! Games, Crafts, Prizes, and *fun*! Get into the Zone! Join us later that night for our Sexy BED 3 Party! - A Mid-Summers Night Dream! (814) 452-0125. [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Aug 25 - Menspace meets (Don's house, in Erie)** 7:30 PM. We will be getting together the evening of the March/Rally. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Web: <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Aug 25 - BED 3—A Mid-Summers Night Dream! at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St. 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!

**Aug 25 - Post Pride Party at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Show us your Pride. After you march your way to Perry Square, dance your way over to Trance for the After-Pride Party! Rainbow giveaways and prizes. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). [www.trancenightclub.com](http://www.trancenightclub.com).

**Aug 26 - Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland)** Outdoor dance party benefits AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, 1-10 PM. Clifton Blvd. between West 116th & West 117th Sts. (216)221-2333.

*(continued on page 9)*

## Do you know the signs of an abusive relationship?

- Does "IT'S HIS/HER WAY OR THE HIGHWAY" apply to the relationship?
- Does one partner get blamed for everything that goes wrong? "IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!"
- Is the relationship full of put downs and disparaging comments?
- Is jealousy off the charts?
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147502



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# Calendar

**Sep 7 - Dynamite Disco Dance Party** 7 PM. Seneca Niagara Casino. Outdoor concert, free admission. [www.senecaniagaracasino.com](http://www.senecaniagaracasino.com)

**Sep 8 - Ohio Lesbian Festival (Kirkersville OH)**  
Visit [www.ohiolba.org](http://www.ohiolba.org)

**Sep 9 - Karaoke and Long Islands Kickoff** (Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 10 PM. It's time for Karaoke and Long Islands! Tonight we kickoff Karaoke and Long Island Iced Tea specials EVERY Sunday and Wednesday! We have Erie's largest song database Guaranteed! We are now offering Show Tunes and Vital Classic TV Show clips in-between Karaoke songs on our screens. The fun starts at 10 PM both nights every week! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**Sep 11 - Auditions for 7th season of Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus** [www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/).

**Sep 15 - Menspace meets (Gordon and Bill's, Cambridge Springs, PA)** 7:30 PM. Social group for

gay/bi men. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Sep 15 - Trance 3rd Anniversary Celebration!** (Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM. It's our 3rd Year Anniversary Celebration! Check out our recent club additions in time for this moment. From the dance stage to the Oasis Martini Bar, we've added some new exciting enhancements to our club! Indulge yourself in our new drink specials, give-aways, special guest performances...and a stunning performance from a hot male stripper we PROMISE won't let you down! The Party starts @ 9 PM with DJ Rob spinning ALL your requests! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**Sep 15 - Greek Gods TOGA Party!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Join us for a night of mystical fun as we summon the gods of Mt. Olympus to the Zone! Go Greek- Wear a Toga! Come dressed as your favorite mythological character!- Sexy Olympian - Drag Goddess - Leather Gladiator! Don't forget the Midas Touch with a bit of Gold... or come as a Greek statue, with body paints and a well placed fig leaf! Sorry- No Nudity! Get into your Golden Chariot, Get into the Zone, and be treated like a God! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Sep 27-30 - Great Lakes Film Festival** [www.great-lakesfilmfest.com](http://www.great-lakesfilmfest.com)

**Oct 1 - 31 - SpellBound!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) The Zone's Haunted Bar is Back! Join us for a month long Journey thru the Black Forest...but BEWARE! .The Evil Coven of Witches, Warlocks & Wizards will cast spells of Love, Lust, Greed & Passion on you as you dance your way thru the Zone! (814) 452-0125. [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).



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

**For more information, contact:**  
**Erie Office:** Booker T Washington Ctr  
1720 Holland St, PA 16503  
**814-453-5744 or 1-800-400-2437**  
**Clarion Office:** 15870 Route 322  
Suite 2 Clarion, PA 16214  
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## New Fall Season

Sources for GLBT television and entertainment programming in the 2007-08 season.

**After Ellen** <http://www.afterellen.com/>

**After Elton** <http://www.afterelton.com/>

**GLAAD** <http://www.glaad.org/>

**here!** <http://www.heretv.com/>

**Logo** <http://www.logoonline.com/>

**Queery TV Gay Guide** <http://www.queery.com/tvgayguide/>

**365Gay** <http://365gay.com/entertainment/tv/TV.htm>

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## Out & About



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Smoking Available 



PHOTO: Deb Spilke

*Donna Kellison (aka Aunt Killa) watching the crowd at Celebrate Erie.*

# Michael dithers

by Michael Mahler

Such a busy month! I went to a hafla (Middle-Easter/Belly Dance performance/pot luck) that my friends John and Paula also were at. John was reading palms. So, I gave him my Palm, which is a Tungsten E with a 1 GB SD-RAM card. We had a laugh. A running gag at the Erie Blogger get togethers is how many times in an evening yours truly will “whip it out.”

I had an absolutely super time at the second annual Ashtagayla! James, who is one of the Erie Gay News staff photographers, and I had both been last year. They had a nice turnout - about 100-125 folks, and everyone was very friendly. A few other folks from Erie went as well. The event was held at the Harbor Golf Club and featured live entertainment, a DJ, games, good food and a wonderful time.

I also got word that We Belong: The Movie, will be shown on Friday, September 28 at 4:30 PM as part of the Great Lakes Film Fest. The film was made by Joe Wilson, and features area youth who faced anti-

gay harassment in school in Venango County. The director, Joe Wilson, may be setting up a post-viewing reception.

AnnDrea Benson, a local attorney who was one of the many people who helped pass the GLBT inclusive Erie County Human Relations Commission ordinance in 2002, was asked to speak at an important hearing on October 4 which will deal with passing this sort of legislation statewide in Pennsylvania. We will have more info in next month's issue.

You've seen the signs all over town: “Support the Troops, End the War.” My neighbor has one. You've probably seen the two organizers—Rich and Jason—out at the bars. They are part of a summer-long nationwide campaign to put pressure on our representatives. The climax of this campaign is a big concert and rally on Tuesday August 28, in Frontier Park. If you've been wanting to do something about this issue, come down and join us for this important event. More details can be found at [www.erielead.org](http://www.erielead.org).



*I took this photo of John King reading my Palm (Pilot) at the Hafla at the Erie Art Museum Annex on August 11.*



*Jason Duffy from the Iraq Summer campaign working the campaign's booth at the Erie Jazz & Blues Festival.*

*PHOTO: Deb Spilko*

# Celebrate Uniqueness!

*Rev. Richard A. Moyer  
Pastor of Community United Church*

C.S. Lewis is one of my favorite Christian writers. He always seems to have something to say that is unique and challenging. One quote that came to my attention recently is about the variety of God's creation. "God never strives for sameness," Lewis wrote.

When I first read those words my mind immediately went back to my childhood. For some reason, "sameness" seemed to be an honorable attribute in our household. My parents always wanted me to be just like my older sister. She was a straight A student who excelled in just about everything she did.

When I had mediocre grades and showed few signs of ever being able to achieve the academic and athletic records she held, my parents, in frustration, wished out loud that I would be "more like her." Many times, in my younger years, I just wanted to be who I was instead of trying to live up to the reputation of someone else.

As I grew older, and hopefully wiser, I began to become more comfortable with my own perception of myself. It became less and less important for me to live according to someone else's expectations of what I should be. The former intimidating pressure of my parents to vicariously live out their dreams through their children diminished considerably. And I finally became, as they say, "My own person."

After all, why should I even want to be like anyone else? It is diversity that makes the world a wonderful and interesting place to live.

The truth of the matter is that God must love variety; otherwise he would not have created the world with so many different sizes, shapes, colors and sounds.

Go to the zoo and see all the different kinds of animals. Walk in the woods and notice all the different kinds of plants. Come to church and look around at all the differences among those who worship God.

Why is that most of us have a tendency to condemn and criticize those who are different than us? Why is that we have so much trouble accepting the variations? Why do we think that what we perceive as being 'natural' is exactly the same as what is natural to someone else?

If we believe, as the Bible says, that we are all created in the image of God, our differences should be celebrated not eliminated. There should be no argument with God—we are who we are! We were created the way God wants us to be!

We rejoice that God never strives for sameness. If he did, this would be a very boring planet indeed.



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# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Dems Take Part in Historic Debate

When the Democratic candidates for President assembled in Los Angeles Aug. 9 to debate LGBT issues on live television, it was a momentous occasion.

Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Logo channel, all of the Democratic candidates, except Sen. Joseph Biden and Sen. Chris Dodd, assembled to field questions from gay Americans in the first such forum to be held under LGBT auspices. The Republican Presidential candidates were also invited but all of them declined to participate.

The candidates appeared individually and had about 15 minutes to respond to questions presented by a panel that included Joe Solmonese, president of HRC, singer/songwriter Melissa Etheridge and Washington Post editorial writer Jonathan Capehart.

Sen. Hillary Clinton, the current front-runner, told the audience “there has not been a long-term struggle yet” toward LGBT equality. She touted Democrats’ work to stop the Federal Marriage Amendment.

“I’ve been a strong supporter of letting states retain their jurisdictions over marriage,” Clinton said, recalling the 2004 referenda blitz and the use Republicans made then of gays as a wedge issue. “We’ve begun to see states take different approaches,” she said: “Stopping the Federal Marriage Amendment gave states breathing room to make different decisions.” Now, she said, “the states are moving faster to defeat inequalities than on a federal level.”

Sen. Barack Obama, meanwhile, said he wanted to tap into the “core decency” of Americans to fight discrimination against gays and lesbians, and argued that his proposal for civil unions for same-sex couples wouldn’t be a “lesser thing” than marriage.

Obama belongs to the United Church of Christ, which supports same-sex marriage, but Obama has yet to go that far.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio supports full marriage rights for gays and lesbians. Gesturing to his wife, Elizabeth, Kucinich said, “I can’t imagine what it would be like to meet the love of your life and be told it can’t happen.”

The field’s other supporter of full equality, former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel, was asked how he came to hold views more advanced than others of his

Watergate-era generation. “Most of ‘em are wrong,” he said. Gravel appealed to gays to “Come out of the closet, please. You’ve got to assert your rights.”

Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards said he was wrong to cite his religion as a defense for opposing same-sex marriage. “I believe in all these things (ending “don’t ask, don’t tell” hate-crimes legislation, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act), but I don’t support same-sex marriage,” Edwards said.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson seemed to lose points for saying, upon questioning, that homosexuality was a choice; even though the panelists pressed him to make sure he understood the question.

“I don’t like to answer definitions like that, that are grounded in science or something I don’t understand,” he said. He went on to tout his record as New Mexico’s governor, which included protections for state workers, a domestic-partner law and stopping a state version of the Defense of Marriage Act, thus leaving New Mexicans free to marry in Massachusetts.

## Firefighters File Harassment Claims

Four San Diego firefighters who drove a fire engine in the city’s gay pride parade are pressing sexual harassment claims against the city’s fire department.

The men claim they were ordered to ride in the parade, an order they followed out of concern of being suspended or punished if they did not comply. The firefighters claim that during the parade, bystanders taunted them with sexually explicit comments and their colleagues later teased them for participating in the event.

“I was forced into a situation that would compromise what I hold true and what I believe in,” engineer Jason Hewitt said in a statement. The four claim the department failed to protect them from sexual harassment and didn’t immediately act to correct the situation. The Thomas More Law Center, a conservative Christian legal organization, is helping to represent the firemen.

A fire department spokesman said the four men, who were assigned to a fire station in the parade route area, were called in after another crew that had volunteered to participate canceled at the last minute because one firefighter had a family emergency.

*(continued on next page)*

# National News Briefs

(continued from previous page)

## Fort Lauderdale Gay Friendly – Except City’s Mayor

Fort Lauderdale may be a gay-friendly city and vacation destination, but the city’s mayor has come under fire recently for some not-so-gay-friendly comments.

Thousands of people have been protesting the inflammatory comments made by Mayor Jim Naugle. The Mayor’s problems began last month when he backed the idea of the city buying \$250,000-plus automated toilets for the beach because they would cut down on “homosexual sex.” He went on to say that he used the term ‘homosexual’ rather than ‘gay’ because, in his estimation, such people are “unhappy.”

Broward County Commissioner Stacy Ritter has publicly criticized the Mayor saying, “Mayor Naugle speaks for one very small person: Himself.”

Naugle further angered residents when he called a news conference saying he would make a brief speech “including an apology.” However, at the event, he

claimed that Broward County leads the nation in AIDS cases resulting from men having sex with men and suggested that the county reconsider whether to continue welcoming gay tourists.

He then made “good” on his apology, telling reporters: “I want to apologize to the children and parents of our community for not being aware of the problem . . . I apologize for not bringing this forward earlier. Maybe some lives could have been saved.”

A further dispute developed between Naugle and the city’s newspaper, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, when he said it should be called the “Rainbow Sentinel” because of a supposed majority of gays on the paper’s staff.


## Gay Lutheran clergy Come Out

Dozens of gay and lesbian clergy and seminarians from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have openly proclaimed their sexuality to church members attending the church’s national assembly in Chicago.

The individuals “came out” by singing hymns and passing out a devotional book listing 80 pastors and seminarians awaiting a call or removed from the clergy roster because of a church policy requiring that gay clergy remain celibate.

“We’re raising awareness the Lutheran way,” said Erik Christensen, pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church of Logan Square, IL. “We’re having sing-alongs and prayer services. All of our tactics are attempts to create conversation.”

Nearly one-third of the church’s 65 synods -- regional districts -- have requested that the celibacy requirement be dropped, a measure that was scheduled to be debated during the assembly.



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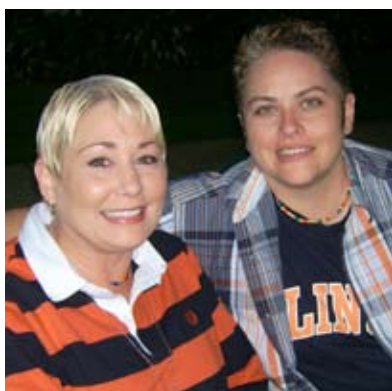
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# Ashtagayla 2007



*Some photos from the Ashtagayla celebration held on August 18. More photos will be available on the Erie Gay News website before Labor Day weekend. Top row: First row: Kym Kirk, Cris D'Itri, Kyle Bell, Maureen Tanner, Chris, Cindy. Second row: Josh Thomas. Second Row: Dawn and Helena; Bob Rannard and Greg Perrine Bottom row: Cheryl Whitney and Terry Vaikesnoras; Chris, Bob, and Greg.*  
PHOTOS: James von Loewe



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