

February 2008



EGN

Erie Gay News



Trance closed as of January 12

by Michael Mahler

Trance Night Club had its final night of business on Saturday, Jan. 12. Many people enjoyed one last terrific night of fun! The club is now closed.

Trance first opened in September, 2004. Over the years, Trance was a great supporter of the community, hosting benefits for Hurricane Katrina, PFLAG, the Erie Arts Museum, Erie Gay Pride, Inc. and other causes. They were also a contributor to the annual Pride Picnic and other events in the GLBT community. We very much appreciate their support and wish the staff and management well in future endeavors.

Erie Sisters Cabin Fever Weekend

from Erie Sisters

Erie Sisters present Cabin Fever Weekend Feb. 15 and 16. Tired of snow, then come out and party with the Erie Sisters. On Friday and Saturday, the group is going out for dinner and then to a club for some fun. For more information, please contact Erie Sisters at 814-746-5524 or eriesisters@eriesisters.org.

Openly Gay Jamestown NY City Council President Sworn In

Jamestown City Councilman Greg Rabb was sworn in as City Council President Jan. 1, becoming the first openly gay man to hold that post. He was unanimously selected to serve as president by his fellow council members.

In November, Rabb was elected as the first openly gay City Council Member at Large in Jamestown, running with the endorsement of the Democratic, Independence and Working Families parties. The Democrats currently enjoy a 7 to 2 majority on the Jamestown City Council.

Although this was Rabb's first win, he had run for office before, always as an openly gay man. After running for City Council the first time, he was a speaker at the first Erie Pride Rally in 1998.



Co-owner Lee Edmondson and DJ Jason at Trance's last night on January 12, 2008. More photos of the evening are on page 15. Photo: James von Loewe

In addition to serving at City Council President, the Mayor of Jamestown appointed Rabb to the Board of Public Utilities. Ex officio, he also become Vice Chair of the Urban Renewal Agency and Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Commission.

Pride Picnic Kickoff Meeting

by Michael Mahler

We are beginning to plan for the 16th Annual Erie Pride Picnic, which is organized by Erie Gay News. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2 PM at Panera's in the Yorktown Plaza, 2501 W 12th St, Erie PA. We are looking for committed volunteers to help to put the event on. The picnic typically draws around 300 people. We are happy to bring this event to the community, but it does take some work. People can participate at whatever level they are comfortable with.

For more information, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com. You can read more about the Pride Picnic and register online at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

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EGN Rates & Data

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
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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
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Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Feb 15 (Monday), will be out night of Tuesday, Feb 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.



To the Avalon for hosting, James von Loewe, Jack Walburn, Tom and Charles for folding; 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.

Community News

(continued from first page)

Men's Greet 'n Chat update

by Michael Mahler

The Men's Greet and Chat welcomes all gay and bi men looking for a friendly and informal social environment.

We will next be getting together on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 7 PM at Panos Restaurant, 1504 W 38th, Erie PA. On Feb. 19, we will be at the Golden Wok Chinese Restaurant, 3202 Pittsburgh Ave, Erie PA. Hope that you can join us! Also, there will be a Menspace in Jamestown on Saturday, Feb. 9 featuring the triumphant return of Pizza and Porn. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Come on OUT! to the Hookah Cafe

by Brian

Come on OUT!, a new monthly GLBT social networking group, will meet Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Hookah Café, 129 W. 14th St., Erie, in the Union Station complex.

Come on Out! offers the regional GLBT community an opportunity to get together in a social setting, have fun and make new friends. The Feb. 21 gathering at the Hookah Café will begin at 7 PM.

Even if you don't want to enjoy a hookah, there are delicious desserts and beverages available for purchase. Come on Out! and enjoy the fun.

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

Drenched Fur Returns

by Gary Snyder

It's time again for Erie's Premier Bear Event, coming back for more furry fun. The bears will be invading during Drenched Fur 4, which will be held the weekend of April 4-6.

The most significant change this year involves the outing to Splash Lagoon. This year the water park resort activities will be held on Friday night, between 10PM and 2AM. Even better, the event at Splash will be open to folks age 18 and over from the local gay community. More details will follow in the coming months, so watch for more information. Contact Gary for details at gwsnyder@drenchedfur.com

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Community News

(continued from page 3)

SafeNet's 2nd Annual Chill-E Cook-off

SafeNet is looking for the best Chili in town. SafeNet's Second annual Chill-E Cook-off will be held at The Brewerrie at Union Station on Feb. 24.

Tables are still available to those who want to promote their chili to the greater Erie community to show who really does make the best chili! The judges this year will include State Representative Pat Harkins, Erie Times News Food Critic Tim Hahn, and one other judge to be announced. Some great artwork by local artist Kevin John Jobczynski will be auctioned off as well.

In the last four years, the SafeNet shelter has been crowded to the point that every available bed is utilized nearly every night. Thirty years of wear and tear have taken a harsh toll on the physical surroundings that victims of domestic violence encounter when they come into shelter. SafeNet is looking for help within the restaurant community to make some very needed changes to shelter.

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 than 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.

To make reservations, call Kathy Clinger-Smith at 814-455-1774 extension 249.

New Year's Resolutions

by Jake Kaskey/Equality PA

Believe it or not, we're already one month into the New Year. I know I personally have resolved to lose weight, hit the gym more than I hit Taco Bell, and spend more time with friends.

We all make resolutions this time of year, whether consciously or not. The start of a new year gives us an opportunity to take stock of our goals, achievements and hope for the future. Looking back at 2007, we made great strides for the LGBT community across Pennsylvania. The first-ever public hearings on non-discrimination legislation were held, including one in Erie, and the largest number co-sponsors ever have signed on to support the bill in both the State House and Senate.

There is more momentum to pass this important legislation in 2008 than ever before, but with that exciting momentum comes responsibility. We cannot expect this legislation to pass without increased effort and visibility. I've spoken at length in the past about the importance of speaking with your legislators about this bill, but perhaps this year we can resolve to truly make an impact, and have the courage to speak openly and honestly about this and other LGBT issues.

Visit your legislator's office and speak to them about this bill. Write a letter-to-the-editor explaining the importance of passing protections for discrimination against LGBT people. Host a house party to draw attention to important issues facing our community. These are all amazing resolutions, and by making them, we can truly make 2008 a historic year for LGBT Pennsylvanians.

For information on the non-discrimination bill, and more ideas to become involved, visit <http://equalitypa.org>.



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Check Out Our Website at: www.eriegaynews.com
for our list of locations

Calendar

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

Jan 25 (Fri) - Documentary: For the Bible Tells Me So (Reg Lenna Civic Center, 116 East Third Street, Jamestown, NY) Runs Tues, Jan 22 at 7:30 PM and Fri, Jan 25 at 8 PM. A unique documentary film about the coming out stories of 5 adult children and their families, created by Daniel Karlslake, a "son of Chautauqua Institution". Reg Lenna Civic Center: see the theater info at RegLenna.com and the film website forthebibletellsmeso.org for further details. Phone: (716) 484-7070. Browse to <http://www.reglenna.com>.

Jan 29 - Men's Greet 'n Chat (Pano's, 1504 W 38th St, Erie PA) 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>.

Feb 2 - Mardi Gras Party - Zone Style! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Follow the parade from Bourbon St. to the Zone for Erie's BIGGEST Gay Mardi Gras Party! Join your friends for a night of

debauchery and FUN as we celebrate Mardi Gras the best we can- Zone style! Drink specials, jell-o shots and shooters, beads, glow-sticks and FUN! Girls & Guys Get WILD! Show us some skin, we'll give you some beads! (No Nudity) It's a Big Easy party at the ZONE! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Feb 3 - End-ZONE Superbowl Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Watch the game with us on our Giant screen TV and cheer your favorite team to victory! The kitchen is open all night with specials on all your favorite munchies and 2 for 1 wings- Wing Madness! The Super Bowl - a night of Food, Friends, Fun, and Football! Get into the End-ZONE and score a Touchdown! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Feb 5 - Fat Tuesday Party at the Zone! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Join us for the last night of Mardi Gras for Beads , Cocktails & FUN! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

(continued on next page)



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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
814-764-6066 or 1-800-359-2437

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Calendar

thezonedanceclub.com.

Feb 8 - Watchfire Alliance meets (Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown, NY) 7 PM. Watchfire Alliance of Chautauqua County will be gathering for socializing and for planning community building. Please join us whether you want to just meet up or get into action! Contact: Bethany. Phone: (716)488-1902. Email: watchfirealliance@yahoo.com.

Feb 9 - Menspace - Pizza and Porn (Rick & Rod's 127 Lakeview Ave. Jamestown, NY 14701) 7:30 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Phone at site is 716-483-6825. Ask for Rick or Rod. "We will provide pizza and beer. Bring your old videos, mags, whatever to swap." For more info, contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Visit http://menspace.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 9 - Red Hot Dance Party! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) We are going to heat things up! Cupid is lighting the flames of passion at the Zone! Wear RED or come in costume!... dress as a Horny

Devil - Leather Cupid - Flashing Fireman- Drag Queen of Hearts - Diva Dominatrix... or wear Sexy Lingerie or Valentines Boxers!... just Wear RED!!! Get into the Zone for a Sexy night of FUN! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day at the Zone! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Join us for a night of Romance! Bring your partner in for dinner and a drink! - or come look for Mr./ Mrs. Right or Mr./ Mrs. Right-Now! Happy Valentine's Day & Happy Birthday Jared! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Feb 19 - Men's Greet 'n Chat (Golden Wok Chinese Restaurant, 3202 Pittsburgh Ave, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. All are welcome! Hope to see you there! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to http://menspace.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 21 - Come on OUT! (Hookah Cafe, 129 W 14th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie's new GLBT monthly social group, will meet at the Hookah Café, 129 W. 14th St., Erie (in the Union Station complex). Presented in



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Calendar

cooperation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc. Contact: Brian. Phone: 1-888-749-7073.

Feb 24 - Erie Pride Picnic Planning Meeting (Panera's Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie PA) 2 PM. Planning meeting for 16th Annual Erie Pride Picnic. The 2008 Erie GLBT Pride Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 28. Picnic details are at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. To get involved, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833, email info@eriegaynews.com, or just show up!

Feb 26 - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party at Zone Club 133 W 18th St, Erie PA) 7 PM. PLEASE NOTE! New location! 21 and over, please. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We will be folding and distributing the copies. It's also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 24-27 -Cleveland Leather Awareness Week-end Wyndham Hotel, 1260 Euclide., Cleveland, (216)252-2148, www.clawinfo.org.

On Stage

Selected performances of possible interest to GLBT audiences.

Till Jan 26 - "The Little Dog Laughed" Presented by Buffalo United Artists. The players in this hilarious comedy include a screen idol hiding in the closet, an ambitious male prostitute and his naive girlfriend, and a brash, driven Hollywood agent who can spin anyone and everything. 2007 Tony nominee for Best Play. www.buffalobua.org

Jan 25 - Ember Swift in Pittsburgh Modern Formations Gallery www.emberswift.com/

Jan 27 - Ember Swift in Cleveland Beachland Ballroom & Tavern www.emberswift.com/

Jan 25-26 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus presents "The Proud and the Passionate" in Buffalo at UU Church of Buffalo (1/25) and Temple Beth Zion (1/26). Buffalo NY. Info (716)883-1277 or www.buffalogaymenschorus.com

Feb 1 - Shari Gross performs at Billie's (Avalon Hotel & Conference Center/Billie's Blues and Jazz Club, 16 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 9 PM - 1 AM. Contemporary blues. Phone: (814) 459-2220. Email: info@avalonerie.com. Browse to <http://www.avalonerie.com>.

Feb 23 - Bob Bearfield performs (Molly Brannigan's, 506 State St, Erie, PA) 9 PM - 1 AM. Acoustic guitarist/singer.

Feb 28 - Lez Zeppelin in Pittsburgh at Diesel Club Lounge. All-female Led Zeppelin cover band. www.dieselpgh.co

Feb 29-Mar 22 - "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks" Presented by Buffalo United Artists.

Mar 2 - Ani DiFranco in concert at Carnegie Library Music Hall, Homestead PA www.righteousbabe.com

Mar 15 - k.d. lang in concert University at Buffalo www.ubcfa.org/

Mar 28 - Bernadette Peters with the North Coast Men's Chorus and the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, 8 PM, Allen Theater, 1407 Euclid Ave., Cleveland www.ncmchorus.org or 216-556-0590, then from Playhouse Square at 216-241-6000 or www.playhousesquare.com.

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

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



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Java Buzz

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Feb 1- Guitarist David Allen Coester 12-1:30pm
FREE EVENT

Feb 10 - Open reception for Guest Artist 12:30-2:30pm
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Feb 14 - Valentine's Day Private Candlelight Dinner 6 PM - 8 PM. Join us for a very special Valentine's Day Private Candlelight Dinner! Romantic Music provided by David Alan Coester. Menu includes: Bruschetta (Tapenade, goat cheese with fresh dill, and Sun dried Tomato pesto with smoked sweet peppers). Caprese (Layered Tomato, Mozzarella, and fresh basil Marinated with Infused with extra virgin olive oils), Ravioli with a Curry Mushroom Ragout (Ricotta and Mozzarella Ravioli served in a light creamy Curry Mushroom sauce), House made Spumoni with Almond Cookies Cherries, (Almonds and chocolate make this house made Italian creamy dessert an Intermezzo Specialty) **RESERVATIONS ONLY – LIMITED TO 8 COUPLES.** \$60 per couple includes live music, dinner, beverages, tax and gratuity, plus a Rose “for your Sweetheart!”

Finally, our gallery wall features new artwork from the talented students of Great Lakes FX which runs through Feb. 2.

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Papa Joe's now open Sundays

Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe is now open on Sundays. General hours are now Monday - Thursday 7am to 9pm; Friday - 7am to 11pm; Saturday - 9am to 11pm; Sunday - 9am to 5pm Papa Joe's is at 402 W 8th St, Erie PA. Phone: (814) 455-1292. Email: p1zzam1k3@gmail.com web:www.myspace.com/papajoes

Eclectic Etceteras

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Feb 15 Tom Lin 5-7pm

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Namoli Brennet concert at Latonia

(Oil City, PA) – Tucson-based transgender folk/rock sensation Namoli Brennet will perform the inaugural concert in Oil City's newly re-opened Latonia at 8 PM on Saturday, Feb. 9. The historic art deco theatre is located at 1 East First Street. Tickets available at the door: \$10 general admission; \$5 with student ID.

Brennet is a passionate and gifted performer who has been churning out powerful self-produced CDs about love and heartbreak, courage and individuality, in a wide range of styles, since 2002. She has honed her craft through hundreds of performances and thousands of miles on the road and shared the stage with the likes of Melissa Ferrick, Jill Sobule, Michelle Shocked and spoken-word artist Alix Olson.

Performing Songwriter Magazine wrote that "Brennet sings and plays with an intensity and intelligence that can't be ignored."

More than just a "Boy in a Dress," as one of her song titles suggests, Brennet's gorgeous arrangements and soulful voice are perfectly suited to make the acoustic magnificence of the Latonia's monumental and must-see-and-hear concert hall shine.

Renovated over the past year by local couple Linda Henderson and Roxanne Hitchcock, the Latonia stands at the heart of the burgeoning arts revitalization movement that is turning Oil City, a Victorian-era gem nestled in the hills of northwestern Pennsylvania, into



Transgender Folk/Rock Sensation Namoli Brennet to Perform Inaugural Concert in Oil City's Landmark Latonia.

a new and vibrant center of creativity.

"This is going to be a magical night. We're really hoping that folks from throughout the region will turn out to hear Namoli Brennet perform in this incredible space and help us celebrate the exciting changes taking place in this city and region," said Latonia-co-owner Linda Henderson.

In addition to fostering an emerging arts scene, Oil City and surrounding towns are also at the forefront of efforts to make rural and small town America more hospitable to their increasingly visible gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender residents.

These efforts in Oil City are the focus of a documentary film called *Heartland USA*, currently in production, with soundtrack by none other than the amazing Namoli Brennet.

Heading Out of Town?

Looking for bars, accommodations, restaurants,
—or just general visitors' information?
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Rev. Richard A. Moyer

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Every four years the American people are treated to a spectacle that could only take place in a democracy like ours. We endure the campaign for president which seems like an endless ordeal of political rhetoric and promises that may or may not be believable.

It all seemed to start a little earlier this time around. I suppose it is because so many people in America and in other countries are ready for a change in U.S. leadership. It's no secret that most people think that President Bush's eight years add up to one disaster after another.

What is certain is that democracy is in trouble when so many of our politicians are so out of touch with mainstream America. I think our Founding Fathers would be amazed and sad if they would know that those who are leading us have so little understanding of life as we see it.

This was brought home to me when a candidate

of my own party claimed that he was an underdog. Maybe he is an underdog in the current political race, but that's where it ends. Otherwise he has everything going for him. He is intelligent and good looking. He has a lovely wife and beautiful children. He lives in a million dollar home in a fancy suburb. He is white, highly educated and extremely articulate. He graduated from some of the top schools in the country. From every indication, his orientation is straight as an arrow.

An underdog? Any one of us wish we could be so lucky.

Recently there have been some letters to the editor in our local paper that were written by people who, as well, can hardly be described as underdogs. If not rich, they are at least well educated and articulate. And, it can be assumed by the way they have engaged in gay-bashing, that they are straight as an arrow. They seem to think that gay/lesbian people should not have the same opportunities and rights as other Americans.

The real underdog in our society is the person who is at a disadvantage in our society because he or she is discriminated against in some socially acceptable way. That would be the entire gay population.

In our enlightened society, gay people are often treated as second class citizens. Anyone who argues that point is either stupid or out of touch with mainstream America.

It is for that reason that the church, of all institutions, must take a stand against the many injustices that are directed toward gay people. It really is a matter of justice.

The Hebrew Prophet Micah wrote: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God."

The recent anti-gay Letters to the Editor hardly follow Micah's admonition, even though they were written from a so-called Christian standpoint!

God, according to the Scriptures, always has a bias toward the underdog. The life of Jesus is a sterling example of that truth.

So, let's ask ourselves who the true underdogs are. I doubt that any of them are running for President!



HIV

COUNSELING & TESTING
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No Appointment Necessary

Erie County Department of Health

606 West 2nd Street

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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

814-451-6727

Corry Office 814-663-3891

That was a message of peace?

by Deb Spilko

Pope Benedict XVI observed World Peace Day (January 1) with a message in which he stated that same-sex marriage, birth control, and abortion are “obstacles” to world peace, on a level with nuclear proliferation, economic inequality and environmental destruction.

I am not a Catholic, but I am a peace activist, and I must say that this assertion holds no water, holy or otherwise. Regardless of how the Pope or the Church feel about same-sex marriage or reproductive issues, these issues have nothing to do with causing war. And scapegoating and demonizing others has nothing to do with peace.

Among the real threats to world peace are attitudes like intolerance toward the way others live and believe, the desire to impose one’s own ways on others, and viewing differences as evil. Many of the wars and miseries of the Middle Ages were caused by the Church’s intolerance toward often-minor differences. And though his predecessor John Paul II was no ally of progressive social issues like same-sex relationships, he embraced the world and promoted reconciliation; Pope Benedict XVI, on the other hand, has been outrageously intolerant and hurtful **toward those who are different**.

It is very uncomfortable for me to comment on the religion of another. But these statements and efforts affect us all. Conservative Catholics seem now to be feeling emboldened to fight against same-sex marriage and other issues that might allow GLBT people to feel like they are part of the human race. The unashamedly anti-gay sign that Sacred Heart put up over Thanksgiving was an example of this new boldness. I fear the bigoted among the faithful will now feel it is right and sanctioned to be as nasty as they want to be.

The high-level message of contempt for others also encourages intolerance and cultural misunderstandings in other areas. If the head of the Catholic Church pronounces other faiths and belief systems to be defective, it reverses efforts to try to build acceptance and understanding of differences.

And that truly is an obstacle to peace.

Aftermath of a Hate Crime

By Samantha Lynch

Community Educator, Crime Victim Center

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines hate crime as: any of various crimes (as assault or defacement of property) when motivated by hostility to the victim as a member of a group as one based on color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.

Hate crimes occur when there is a lack of understanding about differences among individuals. When these issues are left unaddressed they may ultimately lead to a hate-centered act of violence. Hate crime can impact both the victim and the community.

Victims of hate crime may feel a sense of fear, vulnerability, distrust, hopelessness, humiliation or betrayal. Many victims of hate crime will never report to the police for fear of retaliation. In some cases the victim may suffer long-term psychological trauma. When a hate crime occurs, the community may feel wide-spread tension and fear of a copycat or reactive crimes. Members of the community who are similar to the victim may feel victimized or vulnerable themselves. Even community ties can be affected. Law enforcement relationships and cooperation can become very strained during the aftermath of a hate crime.

If you are or someone you know has been a victim of a hate crime, seek medical attention to ensure there are no injuries, call the police and report the crime and call Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc. at 814-455-9414. The Crime Victim Center offers free and confidential counseling, support and information on your rights as a victim. Remember no one deserves to be a victim of a crime!

Advertising and Editorial Copy
DEADLINE
is Feb 15 for Mar issue!
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EGN
Erie Gay News

National News Briefs

by Bob

HRC Names Friendliest Workplaces

The 2008 list of “Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality” has been released by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Making this year’s list are 195 U.S. companies, a 41 percent increase over last year.

Only companies that score 100 percent on the HRC’s Corporate Equality Index, which measures company policies that regulate fairness and equality in the workplace, are named to the list. Among the companies listed are Disney, Google, US Airways, the New York Times Co., Ford, Nike and PepsiCo. New companies to achieve a perfect score this year include Mastercard Inc., J.C. Penney Co. Inc., Allstate Insurance Co. and Yahoo! Inc.

“Each of these companies is working hard to transform their workplaces and make them safer for millions of employees around the country,” Joe Solomonese, HRC president, said in a written statement. “We can now say that at least 10 million employees are protected on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity on the job.”

Binghamton, N.Y., City Council Gets Second Gay Member

An openly gay college professor has been sworn in as the second gay member of the seven-person City Council of Binghamton, N.Y.

Forty-one year old Democratic Sean Massey, a professor of human development at Binghamton University, was elected in November, defeating a Republican incumbent by just 12 votes to clinch the 5th District council seat. Massey joins Robert Weslar, the

1st District representative, as the second gay member of the council.

“I’m really excited about the opportunity that I have to represent the people of Binghamton,” Massey told *The Advocate*. “There’s a lot of work to do, but I feel like this election shows that the city’s ready for a change.”

Massey said it was remarkable for Binghamton, a city of about 50,000 people in a conservative part of upstate New York, to have two gay council members.

“Binghamton is a city of increasing social integration, appreciation and celebration,” said Binghamton Mayor Matthew T. Ryan. “It is vital we recognize the LGBTQ community and show support for its members’ rights and liberties as Americans.”

Massey has written several articles on LGBT issues and was among the founders of the Binghamton Pride Coalition. He lives with his husband, Loren Couch (the two were married in Toronto) and their 5-year-old son, Alfie.

Episcopal leader defends gay bishops

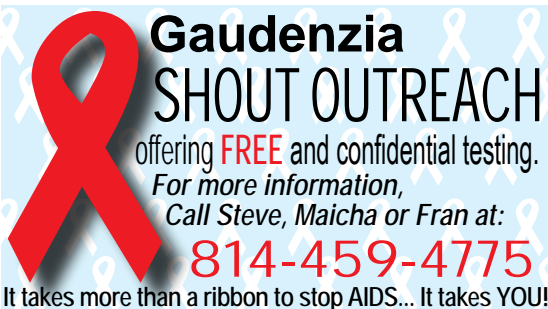
Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori says her church has been unfairly singled out for criticism because it is honest about consecrating gay bishops.

In an interview with BBC radio, Jefferts Schori said that the Episcopal Church, which is the Anglican body in the U.S., is far from the only Anglican province that has a bishop with a same-sex partner. In 2003, Episcopalians elected the first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, causing an uproar that has divided the Anglican community.

“He is certainly not alone in being a gay bishop; he’s certainly not alone in being a gay partnered bishop,” Jefferts Schori said in the interview. “He is alone in being the only gay partnered bishop who’s open about that status.”

The 77 million-member Anglican Communion is a global fellowship of churches that trace their roots to the Church of England. Most Anglicans are traditionalists who believe Scripture bars gay relationships. Liberal-leaning Anglicans believe the Bible’s social justice teachings on acceptance should apply to same-sex couples.

The Episcopal Church in the United States



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National News Briefs

has not developed an official public prayer to bless gay couples church-wide. However, Jefferts Schori and other Episcopal leaders acknowledge that such ceremonies take place. She noted that other Anglican churches do the same.

“Those services are happening in various places, including in the Church of England, where my understanding is that there are far more of them happening than there are in the Episcopal Church,” Jefferts Schori said.

Fight Gay Rights by Buying Microsoft Stock, Pastor Urges

A conservative Christian pastor has launched a campaign to urge religious followers to buy Microsoft Corp. stock, in an attempt to force the company to “stop financing ungodly ventures.”

The Rev. Ken Hutcherson, pastor of Antioch Bible Church in Microsoft’s hometown of Redmond, WA, seeks to create a global and powerful group to promote traditional family values, including marriage exclusively between a man and a woman, and has created the AGN Financial Network to finance the effort. The worldwide venture asks people to buy three shares of Microsoft stock and donate one to AGN. Among the listed supporters are Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention and religious pundit Gary Bauer.

“We’re not trying to hurt Microsoft or their shareholders, nor are we calling for a boycott of their products,” volunteer spokesman Dennis Sullivan said. “We are trying to get Christians to buy their shares.”

It’s unclear what effect, if any, this initiative could have on the company. To gain a one percent stake in Microsoft, about 31 million people would each have to spend \$104 to buy three shares. Microsoft has about 9.36 billion outstanding shares, and its largest holder is Chairman Bill Gates, with 858 million shares, or 9 percent of the total.

At Microsoft’s annual shareholder meeting in November, Hutcherson told the group that he was gathering evangelicals, Catholics, Jews and Muslims to challenge the company.

“I could work with you, or I could be your worst nightmare, because I am a black man with a righteous cause, with a host of powerful white people behind me,” Hutcherson said.

Microsoft executives have publicly supported

gay rights legislation, and the company officially opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation. Microsoft shareholders have voted in favor of the company’s nondiscrimination policy, General Counsel Brad Smith said.

The company was one of the first to offer employee benefits to same-sex domestic partners, according to its employee resource group GLEAM, which stands for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Employees at Microsoft. The group, founded in 1993, has more than 700 members.

“Our company policies are well-known and supported by over 97 percent of our shareholders when it was voted upon in a shareholder resolution, and we just have no comment on this (Hutcherson’s campaign),” Microsoft spokesman Lou Gellos said.

Recurring events

Always Our Children, Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. 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. Feb 15, Mar 15. EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com.

Folding/distributing work party for print edition of Erie Gay News. Feb 26, Mar 25 At the Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com.

Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD.) Feb 4, . Chris Mitchell. Phone: (814) 899-8920. Email: president@erielead.org. Browse to www.erielead.org

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark Hoovler pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Ph: John at (814) 454-1392.

Support group for those dealing with loss Feb 12 at 7 PM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

All EGNs are now online

by Mike Mahler

Erie Gay News has always been committed to chronicling the history of our community. After all, if we don't record our history, who will?

Since we started our second run with the December 2002 issue, every issue has been uploaded to <http://www.eriegaynews.com> as both a PDF and also as separate pages for the article. However, only a few articles from our first run (Jan. 1993 through Dec. 1999) were online.

I had some vacation time to use up for the end of 2007, so I scanned in as PDF's all the issues of *Erie Gay News* for our first run. This represents 84 issues and about 1600+ pages. I am still working on getting all of the articles onto the site. The issue cover dated for May 2008 will be the 150th issue, counting both runs.

You can see an index of all of the back issues by year at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/backissues.php>. For area history that goes back as far as the late 1960's, check out <http://www.eriegaynews.com/history>. (And any additions/corrections to this are VERY much appreciated!



How I spent my winter vacation.

EGN to included in EBSCO index at libraries

Erie Gay News will be included in *LGBT Life with Full Text*, an index put out by EBCSCO Publishing that is marketed to the library marketplace.

LGBT Life® with Full Text contains full text for 55 of the most important and historically significant LGBT journals, magazines and regional newspapers, as well as more than 100 full-text monographs/books including: *Classics in Lesbian Studies*, *Gay Science: The Ethics of Sexual Orientation Research*, *Handbook of Research with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Populations*, *Queer Theory & Social Change*, etc.

The database includes comprehensive indexing and abstract coverage as well as a specialized LGBT Thesaurus containing over 6,400 terms. Full text content available in *LGBT Life with Full Text* includes *The Advocate*, *Gay Parent Magazine*, *Girlfriends*, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies*, *James White Review*, *ISNA News*, *Ladder*, *Lesbian Tide*, *New York Blade*, *ONE*, *Tangents*, *Washington Blade*, and many more. Additionally, *LGBT Life with Full Text* will soon contain all relevant data from NISC's *Sexual Diversity Studies*.

DEADLINE for next issue is
February 15

Helpful numbers

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline
1-888-843-GLNH www.glnh.org/index_.html
Covenant House Nineline (youth)
1-800-999-9999
Trevor Helpline for Suicidal Gay Youth
1-800-850 8078
Erie Hotline (814) 453-5656

Photos from Trance's farewell party

Here are some of the people who bid Trance farewell on its closing night, January 12, 2008. Top row: Evonne, Cathy, Shelly and Angie; Buddy Dobson.

Second row: Margo & Vikki; Todd & Chris; Angel & Tracy
Third row shows some of the crowd.

PHOTOS by James von Loewe.



February 2

Beads!



Mardi Gras Party!

★ ZONE

DANCE CLUB ★ ERIE, PA

Beads!

Show some skin!
...get some beads!



Beads!

February 9

Hot!

Cupid is lighting
the Flames of Passion!

RED HOT Dance Party!

Hot!

- **Wear RED!** or come as...

Horny Devil - Leather Cupid - Flaming Fireman
Drag Queen of Hearts - Diva Dominatrix

or wear-

Sexy Lingerie - Valentine Boxers!

Hot!



The Zone Dance Club 133 West 18th St Erie, PA (814)452-0125
Get into the Zone! www.thezonedanceclub.com

Saturday February 2

Erie's BIGGEST Gay Mardi Gras Party!

Beads! Beads! Beads!

Girls & Guys Get Wild!

Sunday February 3

End-ZONE Super Bowl Party!



Watch the game on our
GIANT Screen TV!

Wing Madness! - 2 for 1 wings!

Saturday February 9

We are going to HEAT things up!

RED HOT Dance Party!



- **Wear RED!**

Sexy Lingerie - Valentine Boxers