



### Film About GLBT Equality in Oil City PA receives Sundance support

*from Out in Silence*

*Out in Silence*, a documentary film aimed at overcoming the bigotry and discrimination that GLBT people face in rural and small town America, was one of 20 projects (out of 800 applicants) awarded financial and creative support from the Sundance Documentary Film Program in 2008.

“The films funded in this round tell stories of perseverance and dignity in the face of our world’s greatest contemporary challenges,” said Cara Mertes, Director of the Sundance Documentary Film Program. “From journalists and lawyers who take on international war criminals, to a small American town confronting its own homophobia, nonfiction storytellers are leading us down new paths as we search for common ground.”

*Out in Silence* began four years ago when Washington D.C residents Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer got married in Canada. Wilson decided to place the wedding announcement in the newspaper of his small, conservative hometown—Oil City, Pennsylvania.

The announcement ignited a firestorm of controversy and a quest for change.

Seeing the controversy as a call to action, Wilson and Hamer set off with their cameras and quickly became immersed in the courageous battle over gay rights and visibility that local folks were beginning to wage in the town. Now, four years later, they’re in the finishing stages of a film that dramatically illustrates the challenges of being an outsider in a conservative environment and the hopefulness and transformation that is possible when those who have long been constrained by a traditional code of silence summon the courage to break it.

Wilson and Hamer, who are partnering with PBS affiliate WPSU-TV in State College, PA on the production, said that “the Sundance grant will help bring timely attention and visibility to these



*Party-goers at the Vertigo Dance Party held on Dec. 20. More photos inside this issue and online at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)*

*Photo by Michael Mahler*

important issues in often-overlooked small towns and rural areas.”

For more information see: [www.OutintheSilence.com](http://www.OutintheSilence.com) Visit Sundance at [www.sundance.org/](http://www.sundance.org/)

### Erie “Join the Impact” artifacts go to California museum

*by Mike Mahler*

Several signs, a homemade T-shirt and an arm-band used in the November 15 Join the Impact demonstration at the Erie County Courthouse were sent to the Museum of California in Oakland, California.

The museum had asked for artifacts from demonstrations from around the country.

Join the Impact is a national organization that was formed as a response to the Proposition 8, which is the California ballot measure that would ban same-sex marriage.

For more information on Join the Impact, visit [www.jointheimpact.com](http://www.jointheimpact.com) and <http://jointheimpact.wetpaint.com>

*(continued on page 3)*

## In This Issue...

Transitions .....	4
Calendar .....	5
New Year events .....	6
On Stage .....	7
Java Buzz.....	8
Alone at Christmas.....	9
Michael's Ditherings.....	10
Hate Crime Justice for All .....	12
Vertigo Holiday Party photos .....	13
Screen.....	14
Lake Erie Gala Photo Gallery.....	15



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

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**Ad Design:** Mike Lipiec  
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

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

We will not publish any material that 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 do not necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.



To the Zone for hosting, Andrea, Bart, Bruce ShROUT, C. Michael, Charles, Dennis, Doug Mauri, Erin M. M., James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, John, Kim, Laurie Finch, Mike, and Misty Harvey; Bruce ShROUT, Charles, Deb Spilko, James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, and Laurie Finch for distribution, Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

**Classified Ads are available!  
 See page 12 for more info.**



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# Community News

## Drenched Fur 5 Returns

by Gary Snyder

As 2008 wraps up and moves us into a new year, the Drenched Fur committee is back together again planning the next installment of Erie's Bear Run Weekend. This year's event weekend is scheduled for Friday, April 3rd thru Sunday, April 5th, 2009. We have some new things in the works including a new host hotel that is exclusively ours for the taking this year! We'll be returning to Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort yet again at night like last year thanks to the rave reviews and feedback we received. Currently we are looking at providing folks the option of some afternoon tours around the Erie region on Saturday as well as a bar crawl on Friday night. We will be updating our website periodically with announcement and further information in the coming weeks and months. And we are launching our on-line registration at the top of the new year, starting on January 1st. If you're interested in more information, feel free to point your web browser over to [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com) or contact Gary the Run Coordinator at [gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com](mailto:gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com) or 814.384.0463 for details.

## Olean's bar under new ownership

Mixers Tavern in Olean NY is under new ownership.

Steve Kasper and Brian Miles bought the bar back in June 2008. The bar first opened in 2004.

Mixers is located at 204 Coleman Street, Olean, NY (716) 372-1004

From their website:

"Mixers offers DJs spinning great dance tunes. Our well stocked bar and great bartenders will create any drink you can imagine. Our large screen TV makes Mixers Tavern a great place to catch all your favorite TV programming. Complete with a dart board, and a Megatouch XL Platinum gaming machine, Mixers Tavern has all the ingredients for a great time!"

Steve also says there will be some changes after the first of the year, with a new kitchen menu and the possibility that they may open Mondays.

The bar is open Tuesday - Thursday 3:30 PM - 12 AM and Friday and Saturday 3:30 PM - 2 AM. Friday and Saturday 10 PM DJ. Visit [www.mixerstavern.com](http://www.mixerstavern.com) and [myspace.com/mixerspub](http://myspace.com/mixerspub)

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# Community News

## Mahoning Valley Pride Center opening marred by vandalism

*Info from Mahoning Valley Pride Center*

On December 6, the Mahoning Valley Pride Coalition held the grand opening of the Stonewall Community Center at 1523 Poland Avenue, Youngstown, OH, 44502. Afterwards the center's holiday party took place. The following account is from the Mahoning Valley Pride Center blog:

"Plenty of people showed up and brought so much delicious food.

"Laura got up and explained her wish for everyone to participate in Operation Holiday Cheer. Laura worked hard to provide every one at the party with cards and addresses of local soldiers who are serving overseas. Laura delivered two touching speeches about the importance of letting the soldiers know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Everyone was listening carefully to Laura's instructions on how to send a card and holiday cheer to our troops. Laura stressed that we are all her extended family. After her speech we got back to eating listening to music and talking

"About 5 minutes till 10:00PM there was a loud smash and the sound of glass shattering stopped the laughter and music.

"After a few seconds everyone ran outside to see two men wearing hooded sweatshirts walking far down the street proud of the fact that they just shattered our window and knocked down our 'Pride Center Event' sign. The men were too far away to identify and they disappeared.

"The police officer asked if we even wanted to make a police report. He said they would probably never find out who did it."

Photos from the party can be viewed online at <http://mvpridecenter.blogspot.com/>

The Stonewall Community Center will be operated by the Mahoning Valley Pride Coalition and will be home to several equality-minded organizations in the Mahoning Valley. These organizations include: Mahoning Valley Pride Coalition (formerly known as the Mahoning Valley Pride Center), Stonewall Democrats, PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Youngstown, and All Families Matter.

In addition to providing meeting space for member-organizations, the Stonewall Community Center

will offer drop in hours on non-holiday Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop in hours will begin on Saturday, January 3, 2009. Volunteers will staff the Stonewall Community Center to provide information to visitors about the Center and about member organizations.

Visit at [www.mvpridecenter.org](http://www.mvpridecenter.org).

## Transitions

A continued good recovery to **John Daly King** after his surgery. He wants to live another 20 years to help the GLBT community

Congratulations to **Bruce Shroust and Tony** on their engagement. They will be having a commitment ceremony in May at the UU.

Congratulations to **Mike and Willie** from Ashtabula on their engagement.

Best wishes to the **Zone Dance Club** on their 10th anniversary in January and congrats on raising \$901 for breast cancer in November!



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# Calendar

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

**Dec 31 (Wed) - New Year's Eve White Ball at Craze** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Party favors, champagne toast and food. Ring in the new year with all your friends at Craze! Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

**Dec 31 (Wed) - Zone's New Years Eve Blast** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Celebrate the New Year with your friends at our last big blast of the year! Champagne toast, buffet, party favors! Countdown on the video dance floor! We'll be popping corks at midnight - to toast in the new year, new friends, and new fun for 2009 at the Zone! Thank you and Happy New Year from your friends at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Jan 4 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets** Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA. 2 PM. Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Email: [womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com](mailto:womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>. (Clickable links at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com))

**Jan 9 (Fri), WatchFire Alliance gathering** At Assembly Hall, Lily Dale, in Lily Dale NY. 7 PM Generally meets 2nd Friday monthly, variable locations. Topic this month is legal protections for LGBT couples in New York state. Contact Bethany Robson (716)499-4817 or [brobson515@msn.com](mailto:brobson515@msn.com) for further details.

**Jan 10 (Sat) - Duane's Birthday Bash at Craze** Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Come celebrate *another* anniversary of Duane's 34th birthday! No presents necessary but there will be drink specials

and no cover charge! Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Jan 16 (Fri) - Vertigo Dance Party** (Lyndora Hotel, 1 Main St, Lyndora PA 16045) 9 PM. TENTATIVE DATE—Check with website for most up-to-date information. \$5 cover charge. Phone: (724) 285-1644. Email: [vertigov@aol.com](mailto:vertigov@aol.com). Browse to [www.myspace.com/butlervertigo.com](http://www.myspace.com/butlervertigo.com)

**Jan 20 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party** Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. 21 and over, please! (because it is taking place in a bar). It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com).

**Feb 14 (Sat) - Latonia: Valentine's Day Dance (Oil City PA)**. An Oil City Gay/Straight Alliance social at the Latonia in Oil City at 8pm. BYOB \$5.



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# New Year events

## Theater

**The Latonia** 1 East First Street Oil City, PA (814) 677-1260 [www.thelatoniam.com](http://www.thelatoniam.com) email: [thelatoniam@verizon.net](mailto:thelatoniam@verizon.net) The Latonia will be participating in Oil City's First Night celebration. Details still being worked out at this writing.

**New Year's Eve Gala at Erie Playhouse** 13 West 10 St. Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 454-2852 ext. 0 7:30 PM 7:30pm. A pre-show champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception will kick-off at 6:30pm. [www.erieplayhouse.com](http://www.erieplayhouse.com)

## Restaurants & Coffeehouses

**Zodiac Diner** 2516 State St, Erie (814) 455-3543. On December 31 they will open 7AM to 4PM then open up again at night 10:00 PM to 3:00 AM

**Papa Joe's** at 8th & Chestnut in Erie will be open till 4 PM on Dec. 31, and closed New Year's Day. (814)835-3360.

**eclectic etceteras** 118 Erie St., Edinboro, PA [www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse](http://www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse). Open until 4PM on December 31.

**Two Friends Italian Market** 827 State St., Erie PA. Phone: (814) 453-2328.

## Bars

**Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Web: [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com). Check EGN calendar for details.

**Craze** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 8 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Web: [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com). Check EGN calendar for details.

**Sky Club** 108 Fairmount Parkway, Jamestown NY. Phone: (716) 661-3212. [www.gaybarjamestown.com](http://www.gaybarjamestown.com)

**Sneakers** 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown NY. Phone: (716) 484-8816.

**Mixers** 204 Coleman Street, Olean, NY. (716)372-1004 [www.mixerstavern.com](http://www.mixerstavern.com)

## Religious/Spiritual

*Visit the Resources section of the Erie Gay News website for a list of welcoming, inclusive congregations in your locale.*

## Various

**Pittsburgh First Night** Wide array of festive indoor and outdoor events. Alcohol-free atmosphere. <http://firstnightpgh.com>

**First Night Buffalo** [www.firstnightbuffalo.org](http://www.firstnightbuffalo.org)

**Gay Buffalo** - If you like to do a lot of different things on New Year's Eve, how about a trip to Buffalo's Allentown district? Considered the center of Buffalo's GLBT community, there is a nice selection of night-spots, restaurants, coffeehouses, accommodations, and other places, all within easy walking distance. Check out these links: Welcome to the Queen City! [www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/visitors/gnl/](http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/visitors/gnl/) Allen Street site: [www.allenstreet.com](http://www.allenstreet.com) Buffalo gay bars (features listings and map of places in the Allen area) [www.buffalogay-bars.com](http://www.buffalogay-bars.com) (clickable links at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com))

**QueeryTV** Don't feel like going out? Check out the TV viewing guide at [www.queery.com/tvgayguide/](http://www.queery.com/tvgayguide/)

**Alternative New Year Celebrations** Visit this article on the EGN website for links on various other ways the New Year can be celebrated.

## Accommodations

*If you are travelling out of town, here are good sources for finding accommodations anywhere.*

**MotelGuide.com** [www.motelguide.com/](http://www.motelguide.com/)

**Hotel Guides US** <http://hotel-guides.us/>

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# On Stage

**Jan 9-31 - "Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins"** in Buffalo at Buffalo United Artists. Alleyway Theatre, One Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo. Visit [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org)

**Jan 25 - "Hairspray" in Erie** at the Warner Theatre 7 PM [www.erieevents.com](http://www.erieevents.com) (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070. [www.hairsprayontour.com](http://www.hairsprayontour.com) "It's 1962 - the '50s are out and change is in the air. Baltimore's Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, has only one passion--to dance. She wins a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show" and, overnight, is transformed from outsider to irrepressible teen celebrity. But can a trendsetter in dance and fashion vanquish the program's reigning princess, win the heart of heartthrob Link Larkin, and integrate a television show without denting her 'do? Only in Hairspray! Welcome to the '60s!"

**Feb 5 - Lily Tomlin in Cleveland** at Playhouse Square Palace Theater. [www.playhousesquare.com](http://www.playhousesquare.com)

**Feb 7 - Lily Tomlin in Pittsburgh** at Benedum Center [www.lilytomlin.com](http://www.lilytomlin.com) [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org)

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# Java Buzz

## Presque Isle Gallery & Coffeehouse

Some of Dee Foll's wildlife/nature photos are on display at Presque Isle Gallery and Coffeehouse until mid-March. The coffeehouse is located at 35 Peninsula Drive, Erie, PA Phone (814)790-5615

## Eclectic Etceteras holiday hours

Renee Thayer says hours for the coffeehouse during holiday weeks 8:30 - 4 Tuesday - Saturday, closed Christmas day and New Years Day. Eclectic Etceteras is located at 118 Erie St Edinboro, PA 16412. Phone (814) 734-2909.



*Bob (left) and Rob (right) with Latonia co-owner Roxanne Hitchcock and friend, at the Latonia's Holiday Party. Bob performed "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." This and other photos from that party can be viewed at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)*

*Photo by Mike Mabler*

### Quote-Unquote

"That proposition was stepping on people's pursuit of happiness, people's liberty and I don't think it has any place in our definition of America. So I hope we figure that one out."

*~Brad Pitt speaking to Ellen DeGeneres on her show Ellen. Pitt has donated \$100,000 to fight Proposition 8.*

## COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

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# Alone at Christmas

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer  
Pastor, Community United Church

A few years ago I was standing in line at a local store waiting to pay for a last minute Christmas gift. The clerk cheerfully wished the young woman in front of me a Merry Christmas. "Christmas?" replied the young girl, "I hate Christmas. It depresses me!"

As she said that, my first thought was: "How can anyone hate Christmas?" It didn't make any sense to me. At Christmas I'm like a child again. I rejoice in all the fond memories of spending the holiday at my grandmother's house, tucked away high in the Pocono Mountains. At grandmother's house, there was always a Christmas snow-fall, and the woods with evergreen trees surrounding her house were Christmas-card perfect

In Philadelphia, where I grew up, there were Wannamaker's, Gimble's and The Academy of Music, all competing for the holiday crowd that flooded the city with a sea of people each year in the weeks before Christmas. It would be virtually impossible to not get into the Christmas spirit as I stood beneath the Wannamaker eagle (equivalent to the Boston Store clock) in the huge concourse, and hear the grand pipe organ play Christmas music. It was always the best free organ concert east of the Mississippi.

I can't imagine a bad Christmas. The adoration of the Christ-Child is so much a part of my theology that nothing could ever come between me and the celebration of the incarnation of God's love, in a humble manger setting.

But when I thought further about the comment of the young woman in line, I realized that I did know much about what she meant. I know what depression is. I've dealt with depression all my life. I suppose I got it honestly. My mother suffered from clinical depression, as did her mother. And while for me, depression and Christmas never seem to arrive at the same time, I can understand why some people find the holidays tough to deal with.

Much of it might have to do with loneliness. I noticed that the woman in line wasn't wearing a wedding ring. I wondered if she had no family with which to share Christmas. Perhaps she had few friends. Maybe she spent Christmas Day, or, at least the few days before or after Christmas alone.

Any person who is single can feel cheated at

Christmas because it has become so much of a family event. The usual message of Christmas is that it's a holiday that is tailor made for the traditional family.

I know that some gay/lesbian people can find this season difficult. They feel excluded from some family-oriented activities and can sometimes feel awkward and even unwelcome at family gatherings. I believe that this is the place where the church and religious faith can be helpful.

On Sundays in Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, our emphasis is not on family gatherings, cheerful parties or extravagant gifts. In the church, our preparation for the real meaning of Christmas is to be reminded of how lonely Mary must have felt when the angel appeared to tell her that she, unmarried and young, would give birth to a Child who would change the world!

Even the birth of Jesus was at a lonely, out-of-the-way place.

Chased away from the inn where all the festivities were taking place, Mary and Joseph were sent to the strange and uncomfortable setting of an old barn, with only unkempt shepherds, who were strangers to them, looking on! They must have felt very much alone.

To be honest, sometimes I just want to be alone on Christmas so that I can take in the real meaning of what the Day is all about. And, so, I started a personal tradition some years ago: After midnight on Christmas Eve, no matter the weather, I walk outside and look into the heavens. I see the stars on a clear December night, and I wonder about that great star that shone over the manger, so many years ago. And as I wonder, as I dream, and as I contemplate the angelic message of Peace on Earth Good Will to All People, I feel the love of God coming down from the sky to me. And I know that I have celebrated Christmas the way it was on that first Christmas night-alone, in the simplicity of nature, shrouded in peace and enveloped in love!

**Stay updated!**

Subscribe ErieGLBT list  
[lists.eriegaynews.com](http://lists.eriegaynews.com)

# Michael's Ditherings

by Michael Mabler

A most joyous holiday season to all! I have caught up some on the history page for 2008 at the Erie Gay News web site (<http://www.eriegaynews.com/history>). Please let me know if I missed anything.

It was really thrilling that items from the November 15 Proposition 8 Protest Rally here in Erie are being included with memorabilia from across the country at the Oakland Museum of California. Too cool!

Erie has participated in some of the other projects that Join the Impact has organized across the US. Several people have participated in Project Postcard, which involves writing a postcard to President elect Obama's transition team calling for a repeal of DOMA and then taking a photo with the postcard. The project originally was supposed to run until Thanksgiving, but it has been extended to Christmas. It probably is fine to send postcards after that. If you will be taking a photo with your postcard, please get us a copy so



that we can include it in our photo gallery. More info at <http://jointheimpact.wetpaint.com>. When Join the Impact sent a mass email across the country to promote the project, the photo chosen was from here in Erie!

Another Join the Impact project that we have participated in has been the National Food Drive for Equality. This is about building bridges with the greater community by collecting food for the less fortunate. As you know, we have been collecting food for quite a few years now at the Pride Picnic. Boxes for collection were at Chicory Hill Herbs, Craze Night Club, Papa

Joe's Pepperoni Cafe, Mercyhurst College, Zodiac Dinor and the Zone Dance Club. HUGE thanks to these organizations for having the boxes and also to everyone who donated! We will have a total for the number of pounds collected for next month's issue. As I am writing this, I have to go pick up some of the boxes to bring them to the food bank tomorrow.

We are also collecting signatures on a congratulations card for newly-elected US Congressman PA-3 Kathy Dahlkemper to present at a meeting to speak with her about our issues. Many thanks to Dave Martin for his excellent idea and hard work on this!

Kudos to the Erie Sisters on their successful 10th anniversary Lake Erie Gala. Some of us from Erie Gay News/Pride Picnic committee acted as escorts for the fashion show. Much fun, even though it was completely unnatural for me to be in a tuxedo! The Erie Sisters have been very helpful with the picnic and other projects, including the food drive, so it was a joy to return the favor and have a fun night to boot!

I have an absolutely wonderful time at the Holiday Social at the Latonia Theatre in Oil City. They were collecting for the National Food Drive for Equality as well. Their next event will be a Valentine's Day Dance on February 14. Highly recommended!

It was also delightful at the Vertigo Dance Party the following week. They were deciding on the date for their next event as we went to press, so check back at <http://www.myspace.com/butlervertigo> or the online calendar at the Erie Gay News web site.

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# Hate Crime Justice for All

by Chip Alfred

Jose Sucuzhañay was living the American dream. A poor immigrant from Ecuador, Jose settled in Brooklyn, New York and became a successful real estate entrepreneur. That dream was shattered on December 8. Jose, 31, and his brother Romel were attacked by three men shouting anti-gay and anti-Latino slurs and wielding baseball bats. Jose died from his injuries on December 12.

The heterosexual brothers were targeted as they were walking home arm-in-arm. In Hispanic cultures, it's common for straight men to touch and show affection for each other. Jose was the father of two children and regularly sent money to family members in Ecuador.

So was it a gay or a Latino hate crime? The victims were Hispanic immigrants. This was the second fatal attack on an Ecuadorian immigrant in the New York area in a month.

New York's hate crime statute includes race, national origin and sexual orientation. It doesn't matter that the victims weren't gay. The law states that it's the assailant's "belief or perception" about the victim that determines whether or not the hate crime statute applies. Perpetrators convicted of hate crimes receive harsher punishments.

It's a different story if you're the victim of a gay-motivated hate crime in states like Pennsylvania or Colorado. Neither the federal hate crimes statute nor 21 states include sexual orientation in their hate crime laws.


Anyone can become the victim of a hate crime – as long as the intention of the person committing the crime is bias-motivated violence.

The Matthew Shepard Amendment, which is expected to be reintroduced in Congress in 2009, would include sexual orientation and gender identity in federal hate crimes legislation. Ten years after Matthew Shepard was tortured and murdered, neither Wyoming nor federal statutes protect gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender hate crime victims.

How many more victims like Jose Sucuzhañay or Matthew Shepard need to die before elected officials in Washington take action? The passage of the Matthew Shepard Amendment would protect gay as well as straight citizens from actual and perceived hate crimes.

The incoming Congress and new administration have a historic opportunity to protect all Americans from hate crimes.

*Chip Alfred is a freelance journalist and president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association.*



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# Vertigo Holiday Party photos

Photos from the December 20 Vertigo Holiday Party. For more photos from this event visit [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
Photos by Mike Mahler



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# Screen

## TV

### The Trials of Ted Haggard (2008)

Disgraced evangelical leader Ted Haggard is promoting a new documentary about his life following a well-publicized gay sex scandal in 2006.

“The Trials of Ted Haggard,” directed by Alexandra Pelosi, daughter of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, is set to air January on HBO. Haggard has agreed to take part in publicity for the project, HBO said.

Haggard, 52, resigned as president of the National Association of Evangelicals and was fired as senior pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., in November 2006 after he admitted to public allegations made by Mike Jones, a former male prostitute. Jones alleged that Haggard paid him for sex and used methamphetamine. Jones decided to go public with the revelations when after seeing Haggard denouncing same-sex marriage on television. “It made me angry that here’s someone preaching against gay marriage and going behind the scenes having gay sex,” he said.

The documentary premieres January 29 on HBO at 8:00 PM.



Ted Haggard

## NEW DVDs

**Affinity (2008)** Set in London’s glorious Victorian Era, this haunting and splendid adaptation of Sarah Waters’s novel follows an upper-middle-class woman who goes to great lengths to be with a female prisoner

with whom she falls in love. *Paramount, Logo*  
**Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild (2008)** “Utterly shameless! Goofy, good fun as the original.” - Bay Area Reporter *TLA*

**Bear Run: Celebrating the Bear Community (2008)** After its successful run on Logo, we’ve got the full, unedited version of this vibrant documentary that gives us insights into the bear community through portraits of three delightfully diverse men. *Pearl Wolf Productions*

**Early Works of Cheryl Dunye (2008)** Works that came before Dunye’s modern-day classic *Watermelon Woman*. “Dunye’s early short films fuse humor, intelligence and drama in the world of urban, young black lesbians as they make their way through the murky waters of love, friendship and dating.” - *Outfest First Run Features*

**Mad Men: Season One (2007)** *Lions Gate Films*

**Mamma Mia! (2008)** On DVD and Blu-Ray. *Universal*

**Ornaments (2007)** The holiday film for those who hate the holidays! *Ariztical Entertainment*

**Project Runway Season 4 (2007)** *Weinstein Company*

**Torchwood: The Complete Second Season (2008)** *BBC Warner*

**Vickie Shaw: You Can Take The Girl Out of Texas . . . (2008)** Stand-up comedy. Vicki’s delicious down home humor is off-the-charts, outrageous, and out of this world! Featuring fellow lesbian comedienne Poppy Champlain, Jenni McNulty and Sabrina Matthews. *Wolfe*.

## VIDEO GAMES

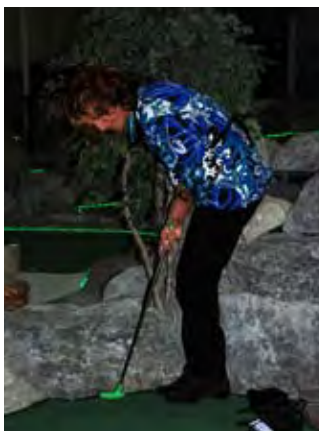
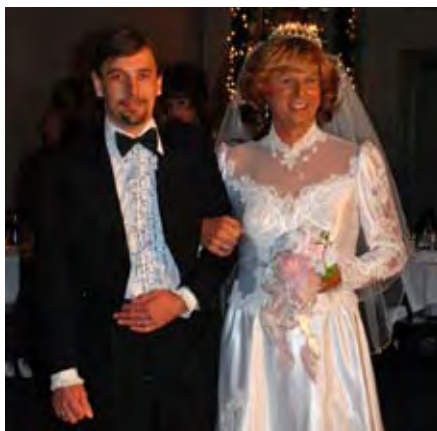
**Fable II for Xbox 360** Sequel to the 2004 role-playing game. From *The Advocate*: “...the most inclusive video game ever created... offers gamers the ability to pursue same-sex relationships with their characters. The game has added female protagonists and a host of potential real-world complications, including the option to have protected or unprotected sex—and the attendant possibilities of pregnancy or STDs. However, perhaps the most intriguing new Fable feature remains squarely in the realm of fantasy: visible, on-screen ‘gaydar.’”

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# Lake Erie Gala Photo Gallery

*Photos from this Lake Erie Gala 2008, held November 20-23. The annual event is sponsored by the Erie Sisters. This year's event had a bridal theme. More photos can be viewed at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com), and more about the Erie Sisters at [www.eriesisters.org](http://www.eriesisters.org). Photos by Bethany.*





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