

PFLAG ORLANDO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends.

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July 06

PFLAG Board Meeting Tentatively Set for Sunday July 23rd, 2-5pm.

We would like to invite you a Think Tank meeting. We'll be talking about programming, membership, networking, the newsletter, fund raising, and several projects. If you can contribute ideas, participate in committees or on projects we'd love to have you attend. Please contact us at pflagorlando@yahoo.com PFLAG Hotline (407) 236-9177 for directions.

Orange bans bias against gays in housing new ordinance passes unanimously to bar discrimination in renting or selling property Jeff Kunerth July 11, 2006

With little opposition from the Christian Right, the Orange County Commission today unanimously approved a fair housing ordinance that prohibits discrimination against gays. "It's the right thing to do," said Commissioner Mildred Fernandez, a Republican. "Orange County is a county that's changing, and it's changing for the better."

The inclusion of sexual orientation was applauded by members of the gay community.

"The County Commission acted in a very courageous manner. I don't think any of us anticipated it would be unanimous," said Patrick Howell, president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Orange County, a gay organization. More at: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com>

PFLAG Orlando had a significant roll in the passing of this ordinance and assuring gender identity / expression was included in Orange County Housing Ordinance

PFLAG Makes History at the New York Stock Exchange
07.03.06 By Troy Espera

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) made history Friday as the first organization for families and allies of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people to ring The Closing Bell(SM) at the New York Stock Exchange.

PFLAG's says its trip to Wall Street to "ring the closing bell on homophobia," was an opportunity for the group to discuss the exponentially growing reach of the buying power of GLBT Americans when coupled with the purchasing force of their families and friends.

JP Morgan Announcement PRIDE Month - Day 30

We are moving forward to create an open and accepting environment, which celebrates its diversity through respect and inclusion. Though not everyone will agree on an exact set of beliefs, we can all agree to work together in harmony and unity. This month of June, we respectfully offer an insight into the history and lives of our LGBT brothers and sisters. So, please read and learn from these daily e-mails with an open mind and an open heart...

P.R.I.D.E. Power Rests In Diverse Environments

PFLAG Makes History at the New York Stock Exchange, Sounds Alarm on Billions-Plus Buying Power of Families & Friends of

Gays and Lesbians "> ...> You get a message that no company can afford to ignore: Equality is good for business.> ">

Study: Number of Homosexual Couples Wanting Children Doubled since 2002 John-Henry Westen and Gudrun Schultz

NEW YORK, July 7, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Homosexual couples are increasingly interested in parenting children a recent survey found, with the number of couples planning for children more than doubling since 2002.

Conducted by OpusComm Group and Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, the survey found two-thirds of lesbians and a third of homosexual men plan to bring children into their homes within the next three years. Those numbers are a striking increase over 2002, when just 18 percent of lesbians and 5 percent of homosexual men said they wanted to parent children.

Only 21 percent of lesbians surveyed and just 5 percent of homosexual men said they presently have a child living in their home.

Ex-gay teachers' booth criticized
Jeff Kunerth | Sentinel Staff Writer
Posted July 1, 2006

A booth representing ex-gay teachers at the National Education Association's convention in Orlando drew protests Friday from gay organizations that called it part of a plan to infiltrate the schools with anti-gay teachings.

"They have a right to be there, but it's part of a larger strategy of getting into schools and misinform people," said Wayne Besen, executive director of Truth Wins Out, a Miami Beach-based group that opposes ex-gay ministries.

At the Ex-Gay Educators Caucus booth, the groups' founder said the caucus was created in response to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus, which also had a booth at the convention.

"We're here because they're here," said Jeralee Smith, a California special-education teacher whose two-year-old caucus has about 30 members.

Smith says the caucus wants to combat the idea that a person is genetically predisposed toward homosexuality. When the issue comes up in the classroom, she said, children should be exposed to the view that being gay is a choice.

"The purpose of this booth is that people need to know there are ex-gays," said Janet Boynes, a Minnesota teacher. "The ex-gay movement is based on lies," said Jim Merritt, a pastor of the predominantly gay Joy Metropolitan Community Church in Orlando.

Besen said the ex-gay educators hope to change the minds of students, who tend to be more supportive of gays.

"It's one booth, but it's part of a massive strategy," Besen said.

More than 9,000 educators from across the country are expected to attend the NEA convention, which continues through Wednesday at the Orange County Convention Center.

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More at: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com>

PFLAG members participated in press conference

Human Rights Campaign's State of the Workplace Report Breaks News on Milestone: Majority of Fortune 500 Companies Offer Domestic Partner Benefits

Jay Smith Brown, 202-216-1580 Brad Luna, 202-216-1514
 June 29, 2006

WASHINGTON - The American workplace has reached a milestone this year with the majority of Fortune 500 companies offering domestic partner health insurance benefits, according to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's report released today, "The State of the Workplace for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans 2005-2006." Eighty-six percent of Fortune 500 companies also include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policy, and 10 times the number of Fortune companies cover gender identity today compared to 2001.

More at <http://www.civilrights.org>

Arkansas high court says state cannot ban gays from becoming foster parents By ANDREW DEMILLO

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - Arkansas cannot ban homosexuals from becoming foster parents because there is no link between their sexual orientation and a child's well-being, the state's high court ruled Thursday. More at <http://seattletimes.nwsources.com>

Transgendered Child Set to Enter Florida School System 2006-07-14

(AgapePress) - The country's youngest "transgender" child is reportedly set to attend school in Broward County, Florida. The young boy's family is enrolling him as a girl in kindergarten this fall.

Some South Florida newspapers have recently published stories featuring a family that has been allowing their five-year-old son to dress, act, and live as a girl. The kindergartner-to-be is said to rejecting his physical characteristics as a boy. According to the Miami Herald, mental health professionals have diagnosed the cross-dressing boy with "gender dysphoria," or gender identity disorder. The newspaper says the school plans to address the youngster by a unisex name. More at <http://www.wdcmedia.com>

As gay pride hits stride, transgendered find more acceptance By Lisa Leff, June 25, 2006

"Trans has become part of polite society," said Susan Stryker, the local historian and transgender activist who spent nine years uncovering the Compton's Cafeteria saga and making it into a documentary called "Screaming Queens." "You can't be openly anti-trans the way you could before."

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In the last two years alone, New Mexico, Illinois and California have updated their anti-discrimination laws to protect transgender home buyers and renters; colleges in Vermont and Iowa have dedicated "gender neutral" dorm rooms; and corporations have adopted policies for helping employees stay on the job during sex changes

More at: <http://www.boston.com/> or <http://tinyurl.com/fjq8d>

Dyke March about 'women power' Annual event marks 13th year of politics and pride By DYANA BAGBY Friday, June 23, 2006

Atlanta Pride is not complete without its annual Dyke March, one of the edgier events to take place during the weekend-long celebration at Piedmont Park.

Last year, about 500 women marched in the trans-inclusive event, making it the largest Dyke March in recent years, according to Atlanta Pride organizers.

More at: <http://www.southernvoice.com>

St. Pete Pride Event Draws 45,000 Celebrants

Participants at Pride in Paradise, St. Petersburg's gay pride day, carry a giant rainbow flag during a promenade Saturday. The event is becoming one of the largest pride celebrations in the Southeast

More at <http://www.tbo.com>

Florida church exposes foes of same-sex marriage

A gay-friendly church in Jacksonville, Fla., is turning heads and sparking debate by publishing on its Web site a list of Floridians who signed a petition voicing opposition to same-sex marriage, reports News4Jax.com.

The Christ Church of Peace has made public not only the names but also the addresses of 400,000 foes of marriage equality. Opponents of same-sex marriage in the state need 100,000 more signatures to qualify the issue for the 2008 ballot. Floridians would then vote on whether to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage, although it's already illegal in the state.

More at <http://www.advocate.com>

Pentagon lists homosexuality as disorder
by Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- A Pentagon document classifies homosexuality as a mental disorder, decades after mental health experts abandoned that position.

The document outlines retirement or other discharge policies for service members with physical disabilities, and in a section on defects lists homosexuality alongside mental retardation and personality disorders. More at <http://www.gay.com>

Pentagon reverses on gay "disorder" PlanetOut Network published Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Pentagon officials said Wednesday that the Department of Defense no longer classifies homosexuality as a mental disorder, but the change has no effect on the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy against gay personnel.

More at <http://www.gay.com>

FAU ADOPTS GAY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION REGULATION *OIA Newsdesk*

BOCA RATON, Fla. - Florida Atlantic University trustees went beyond the mandate of Florida's Board of Education directive by adopting a more inclusive Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Regulation covering all classes protected by law -- including sexual orientation.

Several years ago, the Office of Access and Equity of the Florida Board of Education issued a directive to all schools in the state university system advising them to adopt anti-harassment policies covering "all federal and state protected classes."

While Florida's civil rights law does not include a prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation, county ordinances in Palm Beach and Broward Counties -- where FAU operates six campuses -- do prohibit such discrimination. St. Lucie County, the home of FAU's seventh campus, does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

More at <http://www.outinkeys.com>

Key facts in adoption by gays, lesbians Associated Press 7/8/06

Key facts in adoption of black children by gay and lesbian couples:

_ Adoption by gays and lesbians is perhaps 5 percent or 10 percent, or several thousand out of about 125,000 adoptions yearly, adoption experts believe.

_ Black children make up the biggest share of the pool of foster children awaiting adoption.

_ Only Florida bans gays and lesbians from adopting, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

_ Some states, like Ohio, will allow an individual to adopt but not unmarried couples, gay or straight

More at <http://www.ohio.com>

New Study Seen to Support 'Born Gay' Theory By Patrick Goodenough

CNSNews.com International Editor

June 27, 2006

(CNSNews.com) - A new study on homosexuality is being used to back up the contention that sexual orientation is determined in the womb and not by sociological factors.

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In a 1995 publication on the research on homosexuality and biology, the U.S. group Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) stated: "No human behavior, let alone sexual behavior, has been connected to genetic markers to date ... sexuality, like every other behavior, is undoubtedly influenced by both biological and societal factors."

More at <http://www.cnsnews.com>

NGLTF poll shows public supports trans-inclusive non- discrimination laws 6/29/2006

In the wake of a nasty national fight over whether or not to include transgender people in a federal bill protecting gay and lesbian people from discrimination in the workplace, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) commissioned a poll and conducted focus groups to find out where the public stood on the issue. And the results were surprising. A solid majority — 59 percent — of those surveyed support trans-inclusive non-discrimination laws. The support stayed strong even after pollsters used transphobic language in their questions.

More at <http://tinyurl.com/ljpeq>

National Education Assn: Annual Convention By A. M. Johnson

"The National Education Association is set to endorse homosexual marriage at their convention coming up in Orlando June 29 through July 6. More at <http://www.sitnews.us/>

PFLAG to Honor Gay History with "Gay Jeopardy"

The Columbia/Howard County Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will pay tribute to gay and lesbian history and culture by presenting an entertaining and informative rendition of "Gay Jeopardy." All meetings are confidential, free and open to everyone.

More at <http://tinyurl.com/efb4d>

**Stand up for teens questioning their sexuality
By Laura Philips June 22, 2006**

In recent years, most LGBTQ people come out during their teens. Through friendships, groups, and Web sites, LGBTQ youth bravely and generously support one another, embodying the assets of "caring" and "service to others." Adults in their lives are increasingly likely to find useful resources in person, through books, and online, such as Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN). More often, and on shorter timelines, even initially-rejecting parents re-embrace their children.

More at: <http://www.registerguard.com>

Don't support the institution of marriage. Help destroy it

But what a task, with word sneaking out that PFLAG meetings are a good place for single straights to meet
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I can provide some information for their briefing papers. Tom Nelson, 76, and Linda Karle, 66, are both widowed. Each has a gay son, and has belonged to PFLAG Detroit for at least a decade, though Nelson hadn't been active for years. After the death of his wife he returned to the group, and rekindled a friendship with Karle, which grew into love.

More at: <http://www.dallasvoice.com>

**The Seven Year Ditch
BY AMY JENNIGES**

The Queer Statute of Limitations: If Your Parents Don't Come Around in Seven Years, You are Free to Reverse Disown Them
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I have friends whose parents couldn't join the local PFLAG chapter fast enough. Other friends were immediately disowned, by parents who never looked back. Both kinds of parents are unaffected by this law. It's the parents who fall somewhere in the middle—the ones who freak out, like my mom did, but still clearly love their homo kid and have the potential to come around—who are subject to the Seven Year Ditch law

More at: <http://www.thestranger.com>

UNIVERSITY: TURIN, DOUBLE STUDENT ID FOR TRANSEXUAL STUDENTS (AGI) - Turin, Jun 6 - At the moment, there are four Turinese students who are using a double student identity card with both names until their request for a change of sex is accepted in court. In a press conference, it was explained that "it is a case which is almost unique in Italy and among few others in Europe. It is a chance to live through university in accordance to the particular personal moment one is experiencing." According to the University of Turin's student regulations, it is therefore possible "to release a new student identification card bearing the name chosen by the student to students who are waiting for their sex change request to be accepted by the court and for the subsequent change in the Registration Office, upon the presentation of the appropriate self-certification and the submission of the previous student ID." (AGI) . 061809 GIU 06

<http://tinyurl.com/lldhh>

Recognition of transgender rights: Compassion and logic

An issue that has been drawing increasing public attention in Korea is the legal status of transgender individuals. On June 22, the Supreme Court finally ruled in favor of the legal recognition of transgender people in the case of an anonymous 54-year-old female-to-male transsexual who had a sex change operation at the age of 41. The court held that those who had acquired the physical and psychological characteristics of the sex opposite to their gender at birth could change their gender description in the family registry.

<http://tinyurl.com/rtgbm>

Landmark Supreme Court ruling allows legal change of sex Family registry to reflect change, court says

In a landmark ruling, South Korea's top court on Thursday cleared the way for the country's transsexuals to legally change their gender.

The Supreme Court ruled that a female-to-male transsexual should be allowed to change the gender listed in his family registry from "female" to "male." The ruling came after two lower courts rejected petitions by the same client in 2003. The court then remanded the case to the Cheongju District Court.

<http://english.hani.co.kr>

Lifetime Television's Original Movie 'A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story' Becomes Network's Most Watched Original Movie of 2006 Averaging 5.1 Million Total Viewers 06/20/06

Second Most Watched Movie of Year Among All Ad-Supported Basic Cable Movies -

<http://sev.prnewswire.com>

'Lovespring International' Up 65% in Total Viewers with 1.5 Million Viewers -

NEW YORK, June 20 /PRNewswire/ -- Lifetime Television posted huge numbers on Monday evening with its powerhouse one-two programming of the Lifetime Original Movie "A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story" followed by the new comedy Lovespring International." At 9PM (ET/PT), "A Girl Like Me: The Gwen Araujo Story," a moving drama about a loving single mother who prevails upon her close-knit Latino family to accept her teenaged son's daring decision to live as a girl, became the network's most watched original movie of this year when it averaged 5.1 million total viewers during its premiere on Monday, June 19 from 9-11PM (ET/PT).

Legal Settlement Negates Exclusionary Status of All Gay High School 2006-07-11

(AgapePress) - A New York high school billed as the first openly homosexual school in the country must now admit heterosexual students. No longer can the publicly funded school cater only to "gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning" (GLBQ) students. <http://www.wdcmedia.com>

Gray, Gay, Together Specialized Housing Provides A Place To Retire July 15, 2006 By LISA LEFF, Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO

Like other gay men in their golden years, Jack Norris and Seymour Sirota had heard the horror stories.

An elderly lesbian couple are housed on separate floors of a nursing home and kept from seeing each other. A gay retired college professor feels compelled to keep his sexual orientation a secret after his roommate at an assisted living facility asks to be transferred.

"I thought, 'We are not going to be in that situation,'" Norris, 67, said crisply. "This is not going to happen to us in our final days."

That's how the two New Yorkers, partners for 14 years, landed at Rainbow Vision, a senior community just completed in Santa Fe, N.M.

More at <http://www.courant.com>

Gay Democrats seek to become an influential force in politics BRENDAN FARRINGTON Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Gay and lesbian Democrats sometimes face a difficult position when trying to promote political issues of personal interest: They know some in their party aren't on their side, and they believe Republicans use the issues to divide voters.

So the Florida Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Democratic Caucus met Saturday to address their dual goals - seeking equal rights for their members and electing Democrats regardless of how they stand on gay issues.

"I can sum up the Republican agenda in nine words: Burning the flag, spurning the fag and earnings that lag," said U.S. Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, who is gay.

Democrats have become more willing to accept homosexuals as people who deserve the same rights as others, while Republicans have moved even further to the extreme against gays, Frank said.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Gay-Democrats-Florida/>

Several news sites move articles behind firewall creating broken links. Please go to their site and use the search boxes to find more on articles found here.