

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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Nov 06

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. This is done through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Support meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the Month at the First United Methodist Church of Downtown Orlando 142 East Jackson Street, Orlando, FL, Wesley Building, Room 205 at the start at 7:30pm

Gay-pride event draws thousands
Orlando Sentinel - Orlando, Fla. Date: Oct 16, 2006

Orlando -- The annual Come Out With Pride gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parade drew about 15,000 to downtown Orlando on Sunday, officials said, nearly double the crowd at last year's event.

pqasb.pqarchiver.com




Thousands march for gay pride By WHITNEY SESSA

Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Pride Week festivities draw to a close Saturday as parade floats and people moved down University Avenue to the Downtown Plaza. People of different sexual orientations and ages marched down University Avenue on Saturday in the 15th annual Gainesville Pride Celebration Festival.

More than 5,000 people joined in the march, which started at the Ayers Medical Plaza and ended on the Downtown Plaza.

Human Rights Campaign - Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equal Rights - Election 2006

- HRC's political action committee raised more than \$50,000 for U.S. House candidate Ron Klein and \$10,000 for U.S. House candidate Christine Jennings.
- An HRC Youth College staff member was placed in Ron Klein for U.S. House campaign for 11 weeks, and two additional HRC staffers worked the final week for both Jennings and Klein.
- Sixty-five HRC volunteers attended the organization's September Organizing Convention, which led to a GLBT field program for U.S. House candidate Ron Klein.
- HRC volunteers worked every Tuesday and Saturday on the field campaign for U.S. House candidate Ron Klein, mobilizing precincts with high GLBT populations for the final 10 weeks of the race.
- HRC's get-out-the-vote efforts yielded 75 volunteers for Ron Klein for the weekend prior to Election Day.
- HRC mobilized its members in support of U.S. House candidates Christine Jennings, Ron Klein and Tim Mahoney.
- HRC's political action committee funded an independent expenditure campaign to contact 12,000 voters by mail in GLBT precincts.

US Senate	 Bill Nelson (D)	Katherine Harris (R)
US House District 13	 Christine Jennings (D)	Vern Buchanan (R)
US House District 16	 Tim Mahoney (D)	Joe Negron (R)
US House District 22	 Ron Klein (D)	Clay Shaw (R)

Hrc.org



Truth Wins Out to Protest 'Ex-Gay' Therapy Group That Justifies Slavery 11/10/2006 9:30:00 AM

Contact: Wayne Besen, 917-691-5118 or
<http://www.TruthWinsOut.org>

WHAT: Truth Wins Out will join a coalition of gay, spiritual and civil rights groups in Orlando to protest the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality's (NARTH) annual conference. The theme of the demonstration and on-site press conference will be "Countering the Quacks" and will feature large inflatable ducks, duck whistles and a Donald Duck character.

NARTH supports so-called conversion therapy and lobbies the American Psychiatric Association to re-label gay people mentally ill. NARTH is also embroiled in two major controversies. In the first, a NARTH doctor wrote an essay supporting gender variant children being "ridiculed" in school so they would conform. In the second, another NARTH doctor wrote an article justifying slavery. As a result of the slavery remarks, two NARTH presenters refused to speak at this conference. releases.usnewswire.com

Democrats Capture House, Arizona Becomes First State To Reject Gay-Marriage Ban

Amendment by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

November 8, 2006

(Washington) Democrats swept the House of Representatives on Tuesday, and Arizona became the first state where voters rejected a bid to ban same same-sex marriage in its constitution.

Twenty-six states have passed amendments to their constitutions to block same-sex couples from marrying. On Tuesday proposed amendments were on the ballot in eight states 365gay.com

Former President Makes Surprise Appearance At Gay Event by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

November 6, 2006 - 5:00 pm ET

(Miami, Florida) Former President Bill Clinton made a surprise appearance at a benefit over the weekend for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

<clip>

"I have the privilege of traveling all across this country and talking with LGBT people and virtually everywhere I go there is wrenching injustice: high rates of suicide, homelessness and violence and bullying among our young," NGLTF Executive Director Matt Foreman told the crowd.

"Rampant discrimination in employment keeping closet doors slammed shut and the homophobia that is fueling the immoral rates of HIV infection among African-American gay and bisexual men. And the daily heartbreaking injustices our families face almost everywhere because they are denied legal recognition and protection. 365gay.com

N.J. court grants conditional rights to gay couples

TRENTON, N.J. - (AP) -- New Jersey's Supreme Court opened the door to gay marriage

Wednesday, ruling that gay people are entitled to the same rights as non-gay, but leaving it to lawmakers to legalize same-sex unions.

The high court gave lawmakers 180 days to rewrite marriage laws to either include same-sex couples or create a new system of civil unions for them.

The ruling is similar to the 1999 decision in Vermont that led to civil unions there, which offer the benefits of marriage, but not the name.

Although we cannot find that a fundamental right to same-sex marriage exists in this state, the unequal dispensation of rights and benefits to committed same-sex partners can no longer be tolerated under our state Constitution, Justice Barry T. Albin wrote for the 4-3 majority's decision. miami.com

Record Number of Gays Elected To Office

(Washington) The wave that swept Democrats to victory on Tuesday led to unprecedented success in electing openly gay candidates.

Sixty-seven candidates endorsed by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, an organization that helps LGBT candidates gain office, were elected in national, state and local races

365gay.com

Is gay marriage a threat to marriage?

Published November 5, 2006

It used to be thought that women had no business voting, but when women got the vote, men didn't suddenly decide their once-exclusive prerogative was worthless. Blacks were once barred from owning property. When the laws changed, whites didn't suddenly give up buying in favor of renting.

Admitting an excluded group to an institution doesn't necessarily weaken the institution. When the subject is matrimony, however, self-styled defenders of marriage say that if it isn't restricted, it will promptly wither and die. They think allowing gays to wed would soon cause heterosexuals to abandon marriage, start propagating offspring out of wedlock and slide into degeneracy.

American treatment of homosexuality has come a long way. Though many people view it as a sin, it's no longer a crime. Gays and lesbians can live their lives openly now.

Changes such as these were unimaginable 50 years ago, but they haven't led to a collapse of the social order. Yet we are told that allowing homosexuals to join in legally sanctioned unions will reduce Western civilization to a smoking ruin.

That's one of the chief rationales for efforts to block same-sex marriage. On Tuesday, eight states are offering ballot initiatives against it, and most if not all are expected to pass. Supporters of these bans warn that redefining marriage to include same-sex couples would damage it beyond repair. Maggie Gallagher, head of the Institute for Marriage and Public

Policy, writes that gay marriage would grossly shortchange the needs of children "in order to further adult interests in sexual freedom." chicagotribune.com

Parents-to-be face legal maze By Kevin Sack, Times Staff Writer October 29, 2006

WHEN the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court voted to legalize gay marriage in 2003, its opinion rested squarely on the argument that determining the best interests of a child "does not turn on a parent's sexual orientation or marital status."

Three years later, the top court in neighboring New York also cited the welfare of children — but took precisely the opposite stance. The state could limit marriage to heterosexuals, the

Court of Appeals ruled in July, because lawmakers "could rationally believe that it is better, other things being equal, for children to grow up with both a mother and a father."

latimes.com**Bisexuality: we're serious, dammit!**

Nothing feels worse than not being taken seriously. This pain is seen in adolescents especially, in people of "alternative" lifestyles, and anyone in someone else's outgroup. Simply put—the whole world.

While most of these groups have been addressed in writing and the media, at least one group has been severely neglected: the bisexuals.

Gay men and women already have a niche in society—yes, they are hated on by bigots, and not everyone agrees with their lifestyle, but not many people refuse to believe them.

Bisexuals, however, are rarely taken seriously as a whole. Most people believe that bisexuals are "going thru a phase" or are closet gay and just making a slow transition. While some do fit these groups of "bi-curious" and "straight-bi-gay-no-really", many bisexuals are the genuine deal—people totally comfortable with having no gender preference.

progressiveu.org**Bisexuality and Society**

This is a huge subject at my school and I thought that I would put it out there to see others' reactions.

Bisexuality. What is it? Is it a cover-up? Is it true?

Lots of kids in my school say they are bisexual. Where it is possible to like both men and women, I don't believe that the large amount of them like both. Some people, I believe, use bisexuality as a way of fitting in to society. For those who are gay, it is better to be known as bisexual than to be labeled gay. Society will accept bisexuals because they can become "straight" but gay people have no hope. I don't agree with society but I do believe that many gay people might say they are bisexual in order to transition easily into "being gay" (when they have always been gay). progressiveu.org

Nonprofit group wants seniors' site to offer services.

Compass, the largest gay and lesbian community center in South Florida, has been in existence nearly 20 years and is starting a capital campaign so the organization can expand,

Tony Plakas, president of the consulting firm Homerule Strategies, said last week.

palmbeachpost.com

Wisconsin State Journal Research: Kids of gay parents fare at least as well as others JASON STEIN

A new wave of research confirms earlier findings that the children of gay and lesbian parents are at least as healthy and well-adjusted as comparable children of straight parents and that the differences found between these two groups of children have been modest, researchers say. The studies, they say, undermine the argument that denying marriage and other rights to same-sex couples helps children.

Opponents of same-sex marriage counter that it's too early to be certain the research is valid and that the government has an obligation to give straight families preference over others. madison.com

Federal Aging Report Explicitly Includes LGBT Elders

The long-awaited Final Report of the 2005 White House Federal Aging Report Explicitly Includes LGBT Elders 10.20.06

The long-awaited Final Report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA), released by the Administration on Aging, marks a milestone in the fight for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elders.

Months of intensive organizing, including the Task Force-convened Make Room for All diversity summit last December — a counterpoint to the WHCoA — and town hall meetings held around the country have paid off in the explicit inclusion of LGBT elders in the report. Resolution 34, for example, includes the following implementation strategy: "Expand the definition of minority populations to include — gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders [sic] and seniors with disabilities, and increase federal funding to NIH, CDC, Title 3 and other federal agencies to reduce health disparities and promote health promotion programming for all minority populations."

gaywired.com

GLBT Retirement Community to Build Second Location in Palm Springs 11.06.06

(Palm Springs, CA) - RainbowVision Palm Springs, LLC has announced Classic Homes Inc. as its exclusive listing agent for a planned resort-style community that caters to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender individuals over the age of 50 and their straight friends. The project is set to break ground in Palm Springs in 2007.

247gay.com

Groups push for help for LGBT senior citizens

Though often unrecognized as a crucial issue in the struggle for equality, the rapidly increasing number of LGBT people 65 and over threatens to strain ability of service agencies to provide for them.

According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, there are as many as 3 million LGBT senior citizens across the country, and that number is expected to climb as high as 4 million by 2030. Many of these people are without adult children or partners to care for them.

Even if coupled, they may be financially unstable due to lack of access to a partner's Social Security, health insurance or pension benefits.

Twenty percent of people in unmarried same-sex relationships lack health insurance, compared with 10 percent of married people, the Williams Institute at UCLA's law school reported Wednesday.

planetout.com

Federal law blocks Studds' gay husband from pension By EVAN LEHMANN, Sun Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Gerry Studds, the nation's first openly gay congressman, pushed the country to another landmark development when he died Saturday: the federal government for the first time will deny death benefits to a congressman's gay spouse.

The federal government does not recognize the 2004 Massachusetts' marriage between Studds and Dean Hara, and won't provide a portion of Studds' \$114,337 annual pension to his surviving spouse.

The federal law, defined by the Defense of Marriage Act, not only trumps the Bay State's gay marriage law but reveals its limitations. lowellsun.com

Survey tracks gay population in metro areas

By Babita Persaud The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. - The Orlando metro area now ranks in the top 10 metro areas in population for gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Nearly 6 percent of the adult population - more than 80,000 - in the Orlando-Kissimmee area are homosexual or bisexual, according to a new study out this week by an organization affiliated with the University of California at Los Angeles. San Francisco had the highest percentage of gays at 8.2 percent. Smaller metro areas such as Austin, Texas, (5.9 percent) and Hartford, Conn., (5.6 percent) also were in the top 10.

centredaily.com

Transgender Day of Remembrance: About DOR

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28th, 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder — like most anti-transgender murder cases — has yet to be solved

gender.org

The Wrongs of Transgender Rights TransNation

10.19.06 By Jacob Anderson-Minshall

Transgender Rights, the new University of Minnesota Press anthology edited by Paisley Currah,

Richard M. Juang and Shannon Price Minter, is an impressive compilation of work from lawyers and scholars whose contributions range from disturbing to inspirational. Transgender Rights reveals how transgender people are frequently determined by courts to be "non-persons, with no right to marry, to work, to use a public bathroom, or even to walk down the street in safety." Perhaps even more distressing is the legal reasoning for denying rights to transgender individuals.

gaywired.com

Standards of Care help transgendered

By Angie Fenton afenton@courier-journal.com The Courier-Journal

Most reputable therapists and medical doctors who work with transgender individuals follow the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care, developed by the late physician, who was one of the first to work with transgender people.

The goal of the standards is to provide "lasting personal comfort with the gendered self in order to maximize overall psychological well-being and self-fulfillment."

Not all transgender individuals seek professional help. But for those who do, a timeline might look something like this:

The Standards of Care process:

Personal recognition by an individual that he or she is "living a lie," as many transgender people describe the experience of feeling that the gender they were assigned at birth is incorrect.

courier-journal.com

Vietnam OK's gender reassignment surgery

Under a draft decree, Vietnam will permit transgender people to undergo gender reassignment surgery starting next January, according to local newspaper Saigon Liberation on Monday.

Under the decree, recently submitted to the government by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, transgender people (whose psychological self is in conflict with the social expectations for the physical sex they were born with) and people having unclear gender identity can undergo gender reassignment surgery.

The decree also stipulates that people with clear gender identity, including gays and lesbians who deny heterosexual experience, are not allowed to undergo gender reassignment surgery.

If approved, the decree will take effect on January 1. (The Advocate)

advocate.com

Important transgender rights victory in New York City

In a small but significant victory for transgender rights, the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund announced Monday that it has reached an agreement with the Metropolitan

Transportation Authority in New York City that allows people to use MTA public restrooms in accordance with their gender expression. advocate.com

Homo on the Range: Gay Marriage in the Animal Kingdom

- By Christoph Seidler in Oslo

Two male giraffes in unequivocal pose, a lesbian swan couple, two male whales stimulating each other: a new exhibit in Oslo displays examples of animal homosexuality.

spiegel.de

1,500 animal species practice homosexuality

Homosexuality is quite common in the animal kingdom, especially among herding animals. Many animals solve conflicts by practicing same gender sex.

From the middle of October until next summer the Norwegian Natural History Museum of the University of Oslo will host the first exhibition that focuses on homosexuality in the animal kingdom.

innovations-report.com

Catholic bishops draft guidelines on ministering to gays

By Laurie Goodstein

The New York Times

The nation's Roman Catholic bishops have drafted new guidelines for ministry to gay people that affirm church teaching against same-sex relationships, marriages and adoptions by gay couples, yet encourage parishes to reach out to gay Catholics who feel alienated by their church.

The bishops' document, the result of a four-year effort, gives instructions on some of the conundrums faced in many parishes.

The guidelines, which will be voted on in November at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, recommend baptizing the adopted children of same-sex couples, as long as the children will be raised as Catholics. It says gay people may benefit from revealing their "tendencies" to friends, family and their priest but should not make "general public announcements" about them in the parish.

The guidelines also say gay men and lesbians have "no moral obligation to attempt" therapy, an apparent reference to therapy programs that claim to change gay people's sexual orientation. That guideline says there is "no scientific consensus," either on therapy or the causes of homosexuality.

seattletimes.nwsourc.com

Quaker statement on gay marriage

By DAVE CHAKOIAN | Viroqua, Wis.

On November's ballot, Wisconsin will vote on a constitutional ban on same-gender marriages. We of Religious Society of Friends believe the movement to isolate and scapegoat homosexuals, to promote hatred against them, and to impose in law one group's religious beliefs on us all, is blatantly immoral and contrary to Jesus' teachings.

lacrossetribune.com

Cuba airs gay soap opera

HAVANA, Nov. 6 (UPI) -- Cuba is airing the communist island's first TV program featuring openly gay characters, The Miami Herald reported Monday.

Some of the island's gays say the overwhelming popularity of "The Hidden Side of the Moon" is proof Cuba's hardline communist government has become more tolerant of homosexuals. In the past, gays in Cuba were routinely harassed and beaten by police.

upi.com Nov 6, 2006



'Anatomy' Star T.R. Knight Says He's Gay

NEW YORK -- "Grey's Anatomy" star T.R. Knight says he's gay, but hopes people don't consider that "the most interesting part of me." The 33-year-old actor addressed rumors of his sexuality in a statement to People magazine Thursday.

orlandosentinel.com

Wal-Mart: 'gay-friendly' & proud of it

Oct 31, 2006 By Erin Roach Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--On its official walmartstores.com website, Wal-Mart promotes its alliances with homosexual groups along with other minority groups on a webpage devoted to diversity.

Under the heading, "Relationships with Minority and Women Constituent Groups," Wal-Mart says its diversity relations division "establishes and maintains productive, trust-based partnerships with women and minority stakeholder groups, community leaders and suppliers to continually improve Wal-Mart's reputation as a socially responsible enterprise." sbcbaptistpress.org

'Gay and Lesbian History Month' to teach tolerance

The Philadelphia school district's October agenda shakes-up parents but makes a valuable point
Daina Havens Issue date: 10/13/06 Section: Perspectives

October is a month dedicated to some profound awareness causes. In the past, it has brought awareness to breast cancer and fair trade but, according to the recently released 2006 Philadelphia School District calendar, it has also been dubbed "Gay and Lesbian History Month." theloquitur.com

Gay history month in city schools seen part of trend
By Susan Brinkmann 11/6/2006

The Catholic Standard and Times (www.cst-phl.com)

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (The Catholic Standard and Times) - The surprise addition of Gay and Lesbian History Month to the Philadelphia public school system's October calendar has caused concern among local parents, and may be a harbinger of things to come. catholic.org

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.