

# 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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Jan 07

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 and start at 7:30pm

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## Registry would give same-sex partners rights

By JEFF ADELSON

December 27, 2006

Terry Fleming and his partner have been together for nine years, but in the eyes of state and federal agencies, their relationship might as well not exist.

The same-sex couple, unable to marry, is denied benefits ranging from hospital visitation to shared insurance benefits at work, said Fleming, vice president of the Human Rights Council of North Central Florida, a gay and lesbian rights organization.

But that could change, somewhat, with a proposal under consideration by the Gainesville City Commission.

A plan to establish a "domestic partnership registry" in Gainesville — which would provide a record of partnerships for same-sex partners as well as some benefits — is being discussed by Gainesville's Equal Opportunity Committee. The City Commission could vote on the proposal in the months ahead [gainesville.com](http://gainesville.com)

## Gay club meets hostility in FL

Associated Press Tuesday Jan 2, 2007

OKEECHOBEE, Florida -- The message to gays in this rural cattle town is spoken politely, sometimes with a drawl, sometimes quoting the Bible, but the meaning is anything but a hospitable Southern welcome.

High school senior Yasmin Gonzalez has been hearing it a lot lately - from kids hanging out bus windows shouting, "Are you the one that's gay?" to the teacher who said homosexuals should die.

Gonzalez, 17, has become something of a target since November, when the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit on her behalf against the Okeechobee High School principal and school board for refusing to let her establish a Gay-Straight Alliance, an after-school club that promotes dialogue and tolerance.

[edgeboston.com](http://edgeboston.com)

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## Miami Mayor Under Fire For Pro Gay Comments

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

Posted: January 12, 2007

(Miami, Florida) Miami-Dade mayor Carlos Alvarez has come under fire from his conservative base over comments he made earlier this week in a meeting with LGBT civil rights leaders.

Mayor Carlos Alvarez held his first meeting Tuesday night with members of Miami's Latino community.

During the session, organized by Unity Coalition, and attended by members of SAVE Dade, Log Cabin Republicans and Shelbourne House, Alvarez said that he would appoint a liaison to the LGBT community, opposed repealing the county ordinance that protects gays in housing and employment, and was in favor of a county domestic partner registry. (story)

[365gay.com](http://365gay.com)

### Florida students finally gain access to pro-gay Web sites

Nine months after it was reported by students that the Palm Beach County, Fla., school district had blocked access to gay-supportive Web sites from the district's computers, those filters have been removed, reports the Boca Raton News.

School district spokesman Nat Harrington said the sites were unblocked after they were deemed to be safe for students. "Sites are blocked to protect students," he told the newspaper. "There is an appeal process, and if the site is found to be not harmful, it can be unblocked."

advocate.com

### Orlando Sentinel - Key West: One Human Family! by Posted on Dec 22, 2006 2:59:10 PM

A regular asked about the "One Human Family," bumper sticker and it's long-been the official Key West motto. They will even send you or your non-profit group free bumper stickers, last I checked.

Key West is known as one of the most gay-friendly places in the country, an oasis of sorts in this state that one gay-rights leader recently compared to being so hostile to gays from a legal standpoint that it was the equivalent of Alabama during the Civil Rights movement. Key West, however, has always had this "One Human Family," idea, welcoming all types of people (Photo there is taken from a Key West website of the gay pride rainbow flag during a parade) and the idea of offering the sticker freely is to spread that sentiment of peace around.

You think they can ship a few to Tallahassee??

blogs.orlandosentinel.com

### One Mighty Weekend to Benefit Elton John AIDS Foundation December 21, 2006

PENSACOLA, FL - Johnny Chisholm, founder and producer of Orlando's legendary "One

Mighty Weekend" events at Walt Disney World, today announced that the Elton John AIDS Foundation (www.ejaf.org) will be the beneficiary of the June 1-3 "One

Mighty Weekend" (www.onemightyweekend.com) celebration. Since its inception 13 years ago, One Mighty Weekend has become the signature event for Orlando's annual gay and lesbian celebration, attracting visitors from 30 countries around the globe.

chicagopride.com

### COMMENTARY - Schiavo Tangled Web Entangles JQC

Young is an openly gay judge sitting the 11th Circuit in Miami in the criminal division handling juvenile cases and will host a TV show in 2007 on Sony Pictures Television. Young, a former prosecutor and private criminal trial lawyer, whose very public boyfriend is Judge Scott Bernstein, says that a person's sexuality is irrelevant to being a judge and says that a judge should be a role model for the entire community.

northcountrygazette.org

### Mayor Alvarez accused of breaking pledge to oppose gay civil unions

By STEVE ROTHBAUS srothaus@MiamiHerald.com

A leader in Florida's movement to ban gay marriage said Thursday that Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez has reneged on a campaign pledge he made in 2004 not to support civil unions or domestic partnerships.

centredaily.com

### Miami Mayor Courts Gays In Groundbreaking Meeting by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Miami, Florida) Miami Mayor Carlos Alvarez says he supports same-sex domestic partner benefits and would appoint a liaison to the city's LGBT community.

Alvarez held his first meeting Tuesday night with members of Miami's Latino community. More than 100 people turned out for the question and answer session, organized by Unity Coalition which bills itself as the county's leading Hispanic gay civil-rights group. 365gay.com

**Gay and lesbian themed channel to debut here**

Posted on Dec 8, 2006

Logo, a channel that caters to gay and lesbian viewers, will join the Bright House Networks lineup.

Bright House will preview Logo, starting Dec. 13 on Channel 181. Then Logo will be a regular channel available to digital customers, Bright House spokeswoman Sara Brady said Friday.

[blogs.orlandosentinel.com](http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com)

**Religious leader's ouster raises gay question |**

[www.azstarnet.com](http://www.azstarnet.com) ®

Scientific evidence, though far from conclusive, points strongly toward biological underpinnings of sexual attraction. Many evangelical Christians believe that people can exercise choice over how they deal with same-sex attractions, and some in the movement have begun to acknowledge at least some genetic role.

**Conviction vs. science**

Although the nature vs. nurture debate — biology vs. psychosocial factors — has simmered for years, most recent research has pointed toward sexual orientation being hard-wired into humans, at least to some degree, said Anthony F. Bogaert, a psychology professor at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, who studies sexual orientation development. That finding holds for men more than women, who may be more "flexible" in developing sexual orientation, he added.

"The pendulum is probably pushed at least a little toward the biological end of things," Bogaert said. "Certainly some argue that psychosocial processes play a role. But for guys, it looks as if it's determined very early in life, and that determination is probably influenced strongly by biology."

[azstarnet.com](http://azstarnet.com)

**Three Parents Case—Removing Biology from Parenthood**

Decisions such as this are part of a larger trend, and we should be very concerned. by Douglas Cryer

On January 2nd, 2007, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that a child could have more than two parents. The case involved a lesbian couple, who agreed that one of them would be impregnated by a male donor—a mutual friend—who today participates in the child's life. The non-biological mother asked for, and was eventually granted the right to be legally recognized as the child's third parent.

"Why should we have to assume that the biological parent has first claim on the child?"

The Charter arguments for this case were not allowed at the Court of Appeal, and while this decision is in reference to this specific family, because this is an appeal court decision, it is in effect, precedent-setting. Decisions such as this are part of a larger trend, and we should be very concerned.

[christianity.ca](http://christianity.ca)

**Logo targets lesbian audiences**

Cable channel lands 'Girls,' cruise special

By JOHN DEMPSEY

In a move to broaden its lesbian aud, Logo picked up women's prison skein "Bad Girls" from the BBC.

Logo, Viacom's ad-supported network aimed at gay auds, is ramping up programming for the lesbian half of its constituency, including a variety special featuring the entertainment on a cruise ship hired by lesbian vacationers, and 107 hours of "Bad Girls," a scripted series from the BBC set in a women's prison.

[variety.com](http://variety.com)

**Nonspouse heirs to keep more 401(k) cash**

Uncle Sam is about to ease the tax bite for people who inherit a 401(k)-type savings account from someone who is not their spouse.

Over time, accountants estimate, the new tax break could add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the nest egg of a young heir who receives, say, \$50,000 or \$100,000 and lets the inheritance stay invested for decades.

Until now, only a spouse could rollover 401(k) money from the account of a deceased person without paying taxes on it immediately. Under the new rules that take effect Jan. 1, a son or daughter, grandchild, domestic partner or even a friend will be eligible for a similar tax break. [news-journalonline.com](http://news-journalonline.com)

TransNation - 2006 in Review

Jacob Anderson-Minshall

Following on the footsteps of a watershed year, 2006 saw increased visibility and political gains for the U.S. trans community. Here are some examples:

1. With the Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act, California became the first state to outlaw gay panic or trans panic defenses to justify violence.
2. Several jurisdictions, including Washington's Metropolitan King County (Seattle), and Boise, Idaho added gender identity to anti-discrimination laws.
3. Although the passage of anti-discrimination laws are significant, a Transgender Law Center study suggested they may not be enough to impact the economic health of local trans communities. Despite a decade of San Francisco anti-discrimination laws, nearly 60 percent of respondents reported experiencing employment discrimination and earning below \$15,300 annually.
4. Half a dozen transwomen ran for election this year and attorney Kim Coco Iwamoto was elected to Hawaii's Board of Education, becoming the nation's highest ranking openly trans official.
5. The New York Times published a piece on lesbians who transition to male. The article was flawed but it was one of the few times the world's most respected newspaper covered FTMs issues.
8. By coupling a beauty shop owner and a pre-op MTF, Danish film Soap argued love can rewire sexuality.
9. Independent documentaries explored the diverse trans community. *Cruel and Unusual* exposed the difficulties facing transwomen in men's prisons, *Transcendence* portrayed the world's first transgender gospel choir, and Susan Stryker's *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton Café* commemorates the 1966 transgender resistance to police brutality.
10. Elizabeth Stark and Kami Chisholm's *FtF: Female to Femme* examined lesbian femme as a transgender expression, while Sam Feder and Julie Hollar's *Boy am I* explored lesbian responses to dykes who become transmen, and Jeremy Stanford's *Transtasia* documented the first transsexual beauty contest.
11. Other documentarians utilized the short film genre to explore their subjects, Barbara Rosenthal's *Finding Peace* examined trans veteran Janice Josephine Carney's struggle to overcome the Vietnam War, a film about Utah's trans community, *Home is Where*

the Heart Is, was directed by trans state legislature candidate K. Jennifer Jackson Prince.

12. On the small screen the thrill of seeing a transgender man on *The L Word* was short lived when the FTM character Max was portrayed as an angry, aggressive assimilationist. A transitioned Alexis Arquette debuted on VH1's *Surreal Life* and Lifetime Television movie based on the death of Gwen Araujo, and her mother's struggle to bring her trans daughter's killers to justice. *All My Children* introduced daytime TV's first transgender storyline and quickly received criticism about the character's portrayal.

13. Academia was blessed with two essential anthologies: *The Transgender Studies Reader*, edited by Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle and *Transgender Rights: History, Politics, and Law*, edited by Paisley Currah, Shannon Minter and Richard Juang. Two very different books examined the transitions of a lesbian turned straight man—Dhillon Khosla's *Both Sides Now* and the superior *Testosterone Files* by Max Wolf Valerio (who became the first male published by Seal Press).

14. Pagan Kennedy's *The First Man-Made Man: The Story of Two Sex Changes*, *One Love Affair*, and a *Twentieth Century Medical Revolution*, provided a biography of the first FTM. Work by trans writers could also be found in numerous anthologies, including *The Full Spectrum* (edited by David Levithan and Billy Merrell), *Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity* (edited by Mattilda, a.k.a Matt Bernstein Sycamore) and *Self-Organizing Men* (the first book from editor Jay Sennett's new trans publishing company Homofactus Press).

15. Kate Bornstein offered hope for the alienated with *Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws*, while Alicia E. Goranson's *Supervillanz* delivered a trans action-adventure. *Drag King Dreams*, Leslie Feinberg's first novel since the indelible *Stone Butch Blues*, failed to live up to its promise, but author T Cooper's sophomore release *Lipshitz Six*, or *Two Angry Blondes*, did not.

Check in next week for a preview of what's to come in 2007.

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