

# 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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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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## Gay activist's arrest spurs outrage - Equality Florida chief taken into custody at public meeting



Nadine Smith, executive director of the gay rights group Equality Florida, was arrested at a public hearing in Largo, Fla. (File photo by Phil LaPadula)

## Female Gay Rights Leader "Manhandled" in Brutal Arrest Was Handing Out 'Don't Discriminate' Flier

HRC and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force today condemned the brutal arrest of Nadine Smith, the executive director of Equality Florida. Smith was arrested while trying to hand out a "Don't Discriminate" flier at a hearing over Steve Stanton, the city manager recently fired because he had a sex change operation.

According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: "The arrest occurred when Charlie Deppish of Tampa approached Smith and asked her for a flier that said only 'Don't Discriminate.' According to witnesses, Sgt. Butch Ward confronted Smith in the lobby and ordered her to take back the flier. When Smith asked why, Ward reportedly forced her into a side room where several officers violently shoved her to the floor and arrested her. She has been charged with resisting arrest with violence, a felony, and disturbing others' assembly, a misdemeanor. Smith has been executive director of Equality Florida, the state's leading LGBT advocacy organization, since 1997 and is nationally recognized for her leadership."

towleroad.com

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## Hopeful stories - Irving Kantrowitz Boca Raton - Posted March 3 2007

I would like to thank you for two articles in the Feb. 11 South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

The story of the two gay couples who have created a loving family for their children has helped restore my faith and hope in mankind.

### Activists: Fired City Manager Could Be Transsexual Champion

By PHIL DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

LARGO, FL (AP) -- Steve Stanton loved this city he ran for 14 years. This week, he asked the city to love him back -- to accept his plans to pursue sex-change operation and let him keep his \$140,000 job as city manager. It didn't.

Almost 500 people packed into City Hall Tuesday night for a special meeting to decide if they would accept Susan instead of Steve as their top official. And while many spoke eloquently in his defense, more called for his ouster.

firstcoastnews.com

### UF May Let Sick Time Cover Partners

It's part of an ongoing change in the way the university treats gay and lesbian employees.

By JACK STRIPLING

New York Times Regional Newspapers

GAINESVILLE - University of Florida employees could take sick leave to care for their domestic partners under a new regulation expected to come up for trustee approval as early as March.

The proposed regulation is part of an ongoing series of changes UF has instituted in recent years regarding gay and lesbian employees.

In 2003, UF trustees added sexual orientation to the university's nondiscrimination policy, and the trustees approved health care coverage for the domestic partners of UF employees last year.

The new regulation for sick leave is a further extension of the university's nondiscrimination clause and health care policy, according to Kyle Cavanaugh, UF's vice president of human resources.

"Usually, you'll see employees go through kind of "an evolutionary process (regarding these benefits)," said Cavanaugh, who also shepherded through domestic

partner benefits at the University of Texas at Austin.

Under current UF policy, employees can tap into their accrued sick leave to care for "immediate family."

This regulation would expand the definition of "immediate family" to include domestic partners

theledger.com

### Bill Seeks to End Gay Adoption Ban

A state senator is renewing her effort to reverse Florida's 30-year-old law banning gays and lesbians from adopting children.

But Sen. Nan Rich's bill probably won't become law - the Republican-dominated Legislature hasn't been eager to take up the issue in past years and Gov. Charlie Crist doesn't support changing the adoption ban.

Still, Rich, D-Weston, argues there is no evidence that gay people cannot provide nurturing homes and has filed a bill (SB 1012) that would allow them to adopt foster children.

The measure would let judges decide if such an adoption is in a child's best interest.

She said there are 3,00

0 foster children available for adoption right now.

theledger.com

### Fort Lauderdale lawyer launches online gay national newspaper

Fort Lauderdale lawyer Norm Kent announced this week the launch of an online daily gay national electronic newspaper, [www.nationalgaynews.com](http://www.nationalgaynews.com).

The Web site will include daily news updates, links to national gay and lesbian advocacy groups. It also will offer interactive features for readers' to submit their favorite photos and links to their favorite Web sites. [sun-sentinel.com](http://sun-sentinel.com)

### 30 Years of Pride in Fort Lauderdale



On March 10th and 11th thousands of proud people flocked to Holiday Park at the War Memorial Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale for Pridefest 2007. As the largest Pride festival in Florida, this year's celebration marked 30 years of Pride presence in the area.

This year also continued the tradition of Pridefest's annual great music, food, drinks and plenty of rainbow adornments. Holiday Park thrived both days from 12pm to 8pm. Pridefest was sponsored by Pride South Florida, which is a non-profit organization that promotes positive images of the GLBT community.

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

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### Gay pioneer Barbara Gittings dies, 75

Originally printed 02/22/2007 (Issue 1508 - Between The Lines News)

Philadelphia, PA - The national LGBT community suffered a profound loss when a fearless and groundbreaking civil-rights defender passed away this week.

Barbara Gittings, a pioneering gay activist, died after a seven-year battle with breast cancer on Feb. 18. She was 75.

Gittings began her activist career in 1958 when she established the first East Coast chapter of Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian organization in the country.

A powerful voice in the gay liberation movement, Gittings was a lifelong activist, promoting the visibility of gays and lesbians, and standing up for

civil rights in the mid-1960s, when most gays were still closeted and homosexuality was generally unacceptable.

"We can't get anywhere if we're a hidden people," Gittings said in an August 2005 interview with Philadelphia Gay News. "I've always promoted visibility as the key to our success."

Through her years of activism, Gittings left a lasting impression on many.

"Barbara was the mother of our modern gay rights movement," said Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission chairperson, Steve Glassman. "She was a pioneer in so many ways including her ability to inspire people to look inside themselves and find their own personal courage in coming out and making a difference for all Americans. Meeting Barbara even once could make an impression on any future activist and allow them to see the future through her eyes."

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.shtml?article=23620>



Barbara Gittings (right) and partner Kay Tobin Lahusen. This is probably the last image of them together. Photographer Patsy Lynch took this, upon their request, a few weeks ago on the day before Barbara moved into the assisted living center where she died on Sunday Photo by Tracy Baim

**Keys to the kingdom Gay**

Gay spring break brings new kind of fun to sunny Florida

By ZACH ROSEN

Friday, March 02, 2007

Crystal-clear waters. Perfect weather. Palm trees. And 10,000 gay college students looking to party? Spring break, long the bastion of the straight and the fratty, is getting a queer makeover in Key West.

Between late February and early April, the gay-friendly island will be hosting more than 150 events aimed at bringing college students — and anyone else looking to celebrate — down to Florida for a good time.

washblade.com

**Weekend: Take time out for a festival or two**

PRIDE IN THE PARK: When Hillsborough County commissioners banned governmental recognition of gay pride events in 2005, Tampa's gay community reacted with Winter Pride, an event that drew 5,000 people to Lowry Park last year - with full city support. Organizers moved the event to Al Lopez Park on Saturday, because they expect a bigger crowd for the entertainment, family fun area and vendors. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Al Lopez Park, 4810 N Himes Ave., Tampa; www.wptb.org.

sptimes.com

**Battle Over Gay Unions In Florida Still Lies Ahead (CBS4) SOUTH BEACH**

The temperatures at this year's Winter Party Festival kept everyone attending the dance party warm in South Beach, but the political landscape is expected to get hot for the gay community as the 2008 election approaches.

Even though things are looking brighter for Florida's gay population after Governor Charlie Crist came into office, gay marriage and civil unions will be the hot topic of the 2008 elections. Crist's own party gave thousands of dollars in supporting a failed petition drive by Florida4Marriage.org in 2005 to put an amendment barring any kind of civil union on the ballot.

cbs4.com

**Domestic Partner Benefits Stalled**

By ADAM EMERSON The Tampa Tribune

Published: Mar 19, 2007

TAMPA - A year ago, when the University of South Florida administration agreed to find health care options for domestic partners, faculty union leaders called it a breakthrough.

The word they use today is stalemate.

The two sides are no closer to creating a health benefit for gay and unmarried heterosexual couples like those found at a growing number of Florida universities.

tbo.com

**No Fairy Tale Disney Wedding For You Cartoonish Attempts At Discrimination?**

Alright faggots of the marrying kind, we've got some bad news for you. You cannot - we repeat: cannot - celebrate your gay nups at Disney World in Florida. It's tragic, yes, but there's nothing we can do about it: gays can't legally marry in Florida and apparently Disney requires a valid marriage license before it will allow you to celebrate in its fantastical realm.

As the kids over at AfterElton point out, however, it shouldn't be an issue, because the family friendly company simply holds ceremonies and doesn't issue licenses. That said, a gay couple should be able to rent their space for their ceremony, legally binding or not.

California's Disney Land does allow domestic unions, but you can only celebrate in certain areas. No Rose Court Garden for you, just a tacky banquet hall or ballroom. So, is the mega company violating discrimination laws? While we're not lawyers, it certainly seems that way.

queerty.com

**Drew Barrymore: Give me a man's part**

Actress fancies taking the male lead in her next movie

Music And Lyrics star Drew Barrymore, who's just split up with rock star boyfriend Fabrizio Moretti, says she'd like to portray a bloke on screen.

A 'non-practising bisexual', she reveals she loves women so much, she can understand why men do, too. 'I'm one of those women who doesn't necessarily get it together with women but observes them with admiration and awe,' the 31-year-old tells Live magazine.

'I think I have a very strong masculine side to me. I love the company of men and I'll quite happily sit in bars with them, drinking all night and telling dirty jokes.

'In fact, one of my ultimate ambitions would be to play a guy in a movie.'

nowmagazine.co.uk

**Gay teens rejected by their families often face homelessness**

Gay teenagers rejected and forced out by their families find themselves thrust into the harsh world of homelessness

By Elizabeth Baier  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Chris Moore celebrated his 18th birthday with a crash course in survival.

That day nearly two years ago, his family told him to get out because, he says, they could not accept him as a gay person.

Unprepared to face the world on his own, Moore stumbled. He dropped out of high school two months before graduating. He found refuge on the couches of friends for four months. He spent three nights sleeping in a Miami park before going to a youth homeless shelter.

sun-sentinel.com

Sunday, March 18, 2007; Posted: 12:51 PM - by  
BWW News Desk

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced today that screen and stage star Whoopi Goldberg will open the 18th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York. Acclaimed actress Julianne Moore will present the Vito Russo Award to fashion icon Tom Ford, and Sex & the City star Cynthia Nixon will present the Pioneer Award to lesbian comedian and writer Kate Clinton. Patti LaBelle will receive the Excellence in Media Award.

broadwayworld.com

**Steve Charing, media relations, PFLAG-Howard County - Clarksville, Md.**

USA TODAY's cover story "Gay teens coming out earlier to peers and family" presented an accurate overview of the issues surrounding gay and lesbian teens' acknowledgement of their sexual orientation at an earlier age than previous generations did.

But while several key support groups were identified, one of the leading gay and lesbian support groups for parents and gay individuals was omitted: PFLAG, or Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (News, Feb. 8).

This venerable organization has been a valuable source of support to families for more than three decades. PFLAG's goal is to keep families together, and with the help of parents who have experienced their child's coming out, PFLAG members offer guidance and support to other parents in a similar situation. Many chapters provide support to the teens as well.

The article discusses how problematic it could be for teens and their parents in rural areas. PFLAG has grown to more than 500 chapters nationwide, and its reach extends into all areas of the country.

Parents who are trying to come to terms with their child's sexual orientation would be well advised to visit [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) to locate a chapter in their area. Nobody should feel that they are alone  
[blogs.usatoday.com](http://blogs.usatoday.com)

### **GOP chief backs referendum in Florida on gay marriage ban** By Jason Garcia - Tallahassee Bureau

Tallahassee · Florida's new Republican Party chairman said Monday he would like to see a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage on the 2008 ballot and would not rule out spending more state GOP money to support it.

Jim Greer said he hasn't yet decided to whether his party will contribute more money to a group gathering signatures for such a ballot measure.

The GOP gave the group \$300,000 last year.

But Greer said he supports the initiative and acknowledged that it could help the Republican Party by drawing socially conservative voters to the polls during the next presidential election.

sun-sentinel.com

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### **Free Name Changes for NY Transgenders**

By: ANDY HUMM

The Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund has initiated a Name Change Project to help eligible transgendered New Yorkers get their names legally changed for free if they qualify.

"In many cases, courts remain hostile to the needs of transgender people who are nevertheless forced to submit to court approval for recognition of their identities," said Michael Silverman, the group's director and general counsel. "Legal assistance for name changes is incredibly valuable to those people who are ready to take that step."

Silverman said that applicants who can afford the \$200 for the paperwork are expected to pay it, but will still get free legal representation. For those who cannot afford the fee, it will be absorbed by the Fund.

gaycitynews.com

### **Lawmakers push for gay marriage in Connecticut**

HARTFORD, Connecticut (Reuters) - Gay rights advocates in Connecticut said on Wednesday they would introduce legislation that aims to make the state the second in the United States to legalize same-sex marriage, but they face tough opposition.

today.reuters.com

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### **Out-Of-State Gay Marriage Ban Moves Forward In Wyoming**

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Cheyenne, Wyoming) Legislation in Wyoming that would void same-sex marriages performed in areas where gays and lesbians can legally wed is headed to a vote on the Senate floor.

It received preliminary Senate approval on Monday.

If passed it would mean Wyoming gays could not travel to Canada or any of the European countries where same-sex couples can marry and have their marriages recognized at home.

365gay.com

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### **Housing for gay seniors to open in Oakland**

Barbary Lane residential community to offer building with 46 units in the Lake Merritt Hotel

By Quynh Tran

Inspired by Armistead Maupin's landmark series "Tales of the City," Oakland's Barbary Lane will become the first of its kind in the country to offer an urban residential community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered senior individuals and couples.

The 46-unit building, announced Tuesday, is slated to open this fall, complete with a glass-enclosed terrace dining room with views of Lake Merritt that will be named after Anna Madrigal, the landlady character in Maupin's tales.

contracostatimes.com

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**Several news sites move articles behind firewalls. Please go to their site and use the search boxes to find more on articles found here.**