

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



**2007 PFLAG
National
Convention**

Presented By
IBM

**Request for
Proposals
Now Open!**

Volunteers Needed: Adopt-a-GSA program.

Greetings. I was the School OUTreach Coordinator for Twin Cities PFLAG in 2004. I've continued doing schools work and helped found the MN School OUTreach Coalition, and am now working as an advisor to Rainbow Families in their schools outreach. I believe the niche that PFLAG could most effectively address in schools work would be through developing an Adopt-A-GSA program, in which PFLAG members would "adopt" a local GSA, committing to visit at least once a semester to share their perspectives, talk about the local support group, and offer to be a resource for students' parents. This is the most effective "marketing" for PFLAG, as well, in terms of locating those potential family who could make use of PFLAG services as well as those who could be future members of PFLAG and advocates. I think it would be the single most effective strategy to both spread the word about PFLAG, help folks who may need help, and grow chapter.

Best,
Jacqueline

For the parents, families, friends, allies and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) members and partners of PFLAG, our commitment to supporting families, educating communities, and moving equality forward has never been stronger than it is today. However, accomplishing these critical goals is no simple task - and sometimes commitment alone isn't enough.

But from October 11-14, 2007 in Washington, D.C., PFLAG National will give you the support, education and advocacy training that you need to make your goals a reality. Simply put, whether you are just getting started or are a seasoned leader, there is no better way to gain valuable new perspectives and powerful tools than to join us this October.

community.pflag.org

Celebrate Gay Day with Girls in Wonderland South Florida's Top Women's Event Producers Pull Out All the Stops for Their Seventh Annual Disney World Weekend to Benefit NCLR

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Here's a math equation that's truly sexy: Take 17 years of Gay Day at Disney World, add three of the top women's event promoters in the country and a national beneficiary committed to lesbian issues, and multiply it times four glorious days in Orlando. The result? More than 7,000 women loving women converging in central Florida from May 30 to June 3 for Girls in Wonderland, the long-running series of parties from Alison Burgos & Pandora Events dedicated to entertaining the estrogen set and raising money for the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

prweb.com

DARE TO ASK: Toughest aspect of being gay?

By PHILLIP MILANO, The Times-Union

What is the hardest thing to deal with as a gay individual?
C.D., Johnson City, Tenn.

Probably the sudden death of a loved one. However, many people have a misconception that being gay is all we are. I'm sure straight people don't dwell on their heterosexuality ("Do these pants make me look straight?;" "I wonder if people at work know I'm straight?;" "Wow, she's hot! I wonder if she's straight?"). I believe people who think we lead exotic, secret gay lives don't think they know any of us. We're standing right in front of you. We go to work, mow the lawn, take the kids to soccer, throw in a load of laundry and sleep in on Saturdays. We are exactly like you jacksonville.com

Judge Rules in Favor of Equal Access in Florida

Federal Judge Rules Okeechobee, FL Students Can Form Gay-Straight Alliance Club; In a Legal First, Judge Finds GSA Is Not a "Sex-Based" Club; Doesn't Conflict with Abstinence-Only Education

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. - The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida today welcomed a district court decision ordering Okeechobee High School to officially recognize and allow equal access to the Okeechobee High School Gay Straight Alliance.

"This decision sends a clear message to other schools that they face a similar fate in federal court if they choose to discriminate by deliberately misrepresenting GSAs as something they're not," said lead attorney Rob Rosenwald, Director of the ACLU of Florida's LGBT Advocacy Project and John C. Graves Fellow. "Violence and harassment against gay students is a rampant problem in Florida."

web.morons.org

Disney to host gay Fairy Tale Weddings

The Walt Disney Co. has changed its policy and will allow same-sex couples to take part in its Fairy Tale Wedding program at its California and Orlando, Fla., resorts and cruises, a Disney spokesman confirmed Friday.

The change follows criticism from LGBT news outlets, which noted that Disney has long hosted same-sex nuptials and other gay events on an unofficial basis, but did not allow gay couples to use its dedicated wedding venues or services.

It anticipates Disney World's unofficial but wildly popular Gay Days in early June, when tens of thousands of LGBT mouseketeers converge on the Orlando resort.

gay.com

More Gays and Lesbians Becoming Parents

Gaywired.com

According to a study released by the Williams Institute and the Urban Institute, lesbian, gay and bisexual people are becoming parents at a faster rate. Sixty-five thousand children were adopted by gay and lesbian people, which is around 4 percent of all American adopted children. Also, 10,300 kids have been fostered by gay and lesbian individuals. (Previously, the US census had found that more than one out of three lesbians had given birth, while one out of six gay men had become a parent.) Gary J. Gates, a Senior Research Fellow at the Williams Institute, said that these numbers are only going to get larger as the years progress, as lesbian, gay and bisexual families are seen more in our culture.

edgeboston.com

Miami hosts Alternative Lifestyle awareness week

Student LGBT group to sponsor events, including musical performances and presentations.

According to the 2007 College Rankings by the Princeton Review, Miami University is No. 15 in the country where an alternative lifestyle is not an alternative.

To combat the negative campus climate, the student LGBT group Spectrum will hold Awareness Week 2007 beginning Monday with prominent artists, activists and campus leaders.

oxfordpress.com

Judge orders Fla. school to allow gay tolerance club - The New York Times

MIAMI — A South Central Florida high school accused of discrimination must officially recognize a student club that works to promote tolerance of gay men and lesbians, and grant it the same privileges as other school clubs, while a lawsuit takes its course in federal court, a judge ordered Friday.

The lawsuit, filed in November by the American Civil Liberties Union, said Okeechobee High School officials refused to recognize the club, the Gay-Straight Alliance, and banned its members from holding meetings on school grounds. Officials at the school in Okeechobee, Fla., about 90 miles south of Orlando, said the club was "sex-based" and violated the school's abstinence-only education policy.

But in a preliminary injunction granted on Friday, Judge K. Michael Moore of the Federal District Court in Miami wrote that there is no evidence to suggest that the club "will not dedicate itself to the purposes, such as tolerance, that it has outlined without involving obscene or explicit sexual material."

timesargus.com

Communion Celebrates Art Two: An evening of music with auction of art to benefit the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival April 27-May 5. The advance celebration is 7 to 11 p.m., Bakehouse Art Complex, 561 NW 32nd St., Miami; \$40. 305-534-9924.

miamiherald.com

In The Life TV In the Life is a national television series in a newsmagazine format that reports on LGBT issues and culture.

<http://www.inthelifetv.org/>

My Life's Work Wed, May 2 , 11:00 PM Channel 24 WMFE

Barbara Walters 20/20 on Families of Trans Children

Tune into ABC's 20/20 for a very special program with Barbara Walters Friday Night, April 27th, 2007. This program will portray the true meaning of UNCONDITIONAL LOVE as Barbara intimately explores the lives of three incredible families and their transgender children. These pioneering families are members of a support group for families of transgender children of all ages sponsored by PFLAG affiliate TransFamily of Cleveland. This group currently encompasses nearly 400 families from all over the United States, Canada, England, and Australia. All three have children who have been diagnosed by medical professionals as transgendered, and all are under continuous observation by professional family therapists and medical support staff.

Raising a transgender child involves the usual problems of raising children, with the added burden of trying to understand what transgender entails - and explaining it to your family, neighbors, family physician, and school administrators. There is the constant threat that someone will attempt to remove your child - or even all your children - from your home - as has happened to some families in the recent past. There is the sure knowledge that there will be questions, comments, and probably harassment by other children, both in school and at play. Tune in, watch, and learn how these three families are coping as they demonstrate the true meaning of unconditional love for their child.

Dave Parker, President
PFLAG Transgender Network

Unisex loos at U of W?

Activists say it's about time

By TAMARA KING, CITY HALL REPORTER

The University of Winnipeg wants to add "gender neutral" washrooms to its downtown campus following complaints from transgender activists.

winnipegson.com

Traditional marriage a relic

Matthew J. Viator

I've grown tired of the notion that civil marriage equality is an attacked on the traditional family, whatever that means. A recent example is the Vatican's consternation at the proposed recognition of same-sex couples in Italy.

The foundation on which such arguments rest is that sexual orientation is a choice. Let me assure you, in heterosexual relations, you'll never find this: I think I might fancy a penis instead of a vagina, Jessica, so you and I are as over as platform wedges.

If this did happen, perhaps the man in question was not being forthright about his true feelings from the start; but the idea that men or women could spontaneously claim an orientation other than their own is ridiculous.

Pervasive in this line of reasoning is the fear that if the traditional family has competition, people will flee from it. Now my first thought is rather obvious: if the traditional family unit is so great, so right, so intuitive, then why worry that everyone will bail out on the concept?

Perhaps the true fear lies in seeing how many people are genuinely not heterosexual, or that bisexual individuals will be able to fall in love with a member of the same sex without feeling obligated to give preference to their attractions to the opposite sex.

media.www.jhunewsletter.com

Coors Light Sponsors the Florida Gay Rodeo

April 13th - 15th: Davie, Florida

03.20.07

By Dylan Vox

Coors Light has signed on as the platinum sponsor of the Florida Gay Rodeo Association's (FGRA) largest event, the 2007 Sunshine Stampede. Coors is a leader among U.S. companies in its support of its GLBT employees and consumers and will be a great asset to the Sunshine Stampede, which will be held the weekend of April 13-15, 2007, at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie, Florida, near Fort Lauderdale.

247gay.com

Judge: Gay couple's suit against Adoption.com can move forward - By LISA LEFF, Associated Press Writer

More than three years after an Internet adoption site refused to allow a gay couple to post their profile, a federal judge allowed the pair's discrimination lawsuit to go to trial.

U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton rejected arguments that Adoption.com had free speech rights to exclude same-sex couples from its paid listings, which are designed to match birth mothers with qualified parents.

"Plaintiffs are not seeking to place any restrictions on what defendants are permitted to say or to compel them to say anything," Hamilton wrote in an 81-page ruling issued March 30. "It is the discriminatory conduct that is at issue here — defendants' refusal to do business with the plaintiffs."

sfgate.com

Sixty things for Sir Elton's 60th

Sir Elton John turns 60 on Sunday, 25 March, and to celebrate his milestone birthday here are 60 facts about the pop superstar:

<clip>

32. He came out as bisexual in a 1976 interview with Rolling Stone magazine. "People should be very free with sex," he said. "But they should draw the line at goats."

news.bbc.co.uk

Indoctrination U: Secular creationism

By David Horowitz

A year ago the biggest issue in education after budgets was whether "intelligent design" should be taught in the nation's schools. Opponents called it a form of "creationism" and the press dubbed the ensuing legal battle as the biggest clash between faith and science the Scopes Monkey Trial.

In a stinging rebuke to the religious right, a Pennsylvania judge ruled "intelligent design" had no place in classrooms because it was "a religious view, a mere relabeling of creationism, and not a scientific theory," thus violating the separation of church and state.

Yet at that very moment professors in American universities were teaching a form of secular creationism as contrary to the findings of modern science as the biblical claim that God had made the world in seven days.

The name of this theory is "social constructionism," and its churches are Women's Studies departments in universities across the United States. The feminist theory of social construction maintains that the differences between men and women -- apart from obvious anatomical ones -- are not biologically determined but created by a patriarchal social structure designed by men to oppress women. It is "patriarchal society" that turns naturally bisexual infants into male and female personalities by conditioning them from birth to adopt gender roles -- the one aggressive, masculine and destined to command, the other passive, feminine and slated to obey.

washingtontimes.com

Making his 'Splash' - New show by designer David Bromstad helps put the 'gay' in HGTV

An ironic phenomenon is taking place on television sets across America: A string of specifically gay channels such as Logo and Here!TV are sprouting up only to risk being out-queered by the content on more established, mainstream networks.

With shows like "Project Runway," "Top Design" and the recently retired "Queer Eye For the Straight Guy," Bravo is arguably the most flaming channel on the dial.

But with a prideful contingent that includes gay designer David Bromstad — whose new show "Color Splash" debuted this week — and gay homeowners featured regularly on its renovation shows, the Home & Garden Television network is proving that it deserves its occasional moniker, "H-GAY-TV."

southernvoice.com

NYU allows gay fraternity

New York University's Inter-Greek Council has allowed Delta Lambda Phi, a gay and bisexual fraternity, to be recognized on campus after a three-semester trial period. The New York Post reports that the fraternity has worked on several public service projects, including running a benefit auction to raise money for abused women and children, and offering HIV testing in the college's dorms.

"The NYU community has welcomed my group of 11 gay, bisexual, and progressive fraternity men with open arms—and for good reason," Matthew Maggiacomo, the chapter's president, told the Post. (The Advocate)

advocate.com

Transgender surgeon has close connection to patients - By Laura-Claire Corson

TRINIDAD, Colo. - Dr. Marci Bowers first tried making the transition from a male to female body when she was 19. Lacking the money and with little support from her family, she couldn't complete the attempt.

Some 20 years later, with a strong support system in place, she fully transitioned in 1998.

Now Bowers performs the surgery herself, filling a void she once encountered as a teen by aiding transgender patients throughout the process.

As perhaps the only prominent transgender surgeon in the country - and one of only a handful of distinguished doctors who perform gender reassignment surgery - Bowers is a popular choice for patients looking to physically make the switch.

"(Being transgender) gives some people the perception that I have more sympathy and understanding," said Bowers, now 49. "I do. I want to do a better job - it's important."

Trinidad, Colo., is known as "The Sex Change Capital of the World." The dusty old western town, population 9,300, got its name based on the life's work of Dr. Stanley Biber, one of the most well-known gender reassignment surgeons in the United States, who performed an estimated 5,000 surgeries over a 30-year period.

journalnow.com

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