

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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May 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

PFLAG Orlando In The News

So, you've lived your whole gay life thinking that God hates you. You've suffered through no small amount of self-contempt, self-flagellation and self-denial because you are a homo. You've stayed away from church because every televangelist on earth raises millions of dollars based on the fact that God hates you, and why subject yourself to that?

How wrong you've been. As it turns out, the Bible doesn't instruct Christians to hate people like you. And that's not just us talking.

The Orlando/Central Florida chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has taken up the issue, and they found an actual man of the cloth — Rev. Bryan Fulwider — to take a close look at the Bible for any indication that God hates fags. Fulwider — who teaches a course called "What Does the Bible Actually Say About Homosexuality?" — concludes that there is no indictment of Maryhood contained in the scripture, so there.

orlandoweekly.com

We'd like to thank gaydays.com for graciously hosting our web site.



What IS Orlando Gay Days?

Orlando Florida's Gay Days Celebration is not a single event. It is a total gay and lesbian vacation experience. Gay Days is comprised of multiple events staged at world famous attractions, gay & lesbian clubs, and unique venues secured for the purpose of creating a gay and lesbian atmosphere at Orlando's greatest theme parks and at multiple parties occurring during this long weekend. We have young, old, all races and beliefs, parents, gay AA groups, and every other section of our community attending Gay Days each year.

Gay Days began in 1991 as a single designated day (always the first Saturday in June) when the LesBiGay community and friends were encouraged to "Wear Red and Be Seen" while visiting the world's most popular theme park. From its beginnings (spearheaded by the GLBT Community Center, local activists, businesses, and the online friends and users of Compu-Who) with 3,000 attendees, this one-day park visit has evolved into a week long, citywide celebration offering round the clock activities including multiple theme park visits, cocktail soirees, concerts, and a host of internationally renowned parties. Gay Days attracts over 135,000 celebrants from across the nation and around the globe!

We at GayDayS.com are proud to be your host and a driving force behind the success and growth of Gay Days. With a click of the mouse you can plan your entire Gay Days itinerary, including on-line ticket ordering and hotel reservations. We are proud to be the only web site officially sanctioned by the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Community Center of Orlando (GLBCC) - the birthplace of this multifaceted event.

gaydays.com

Orlando, Vegas and circuit events across the globe beckon gay tourists

By TROY PETENBRINK

MAY. 4, 2007

Kid-friendly gay days: when gay days at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., celebrates its 17th anniversary this year, Gay Day Family now ensures that gay-led families with kids have a place in the festivities.

The new events this year for families, held June 1-3 in Orlando, unite gay parents and their children with other families like theirs.

"We didn't want gay families staying home because they felt excluded," co-producer Yesi Leon says. "We're creating a weekend that feels safe and welcoming for everyone."

<http://www.southernvoice.com>

Girl Who Sought to Be Prom King Loses

Classmates did not support a Fresno, Calif., girl who ran for prom king - instead electing a boy to the role.

Cynthia Covarrubias, a senior at Fresno High School, considers herself to be transgender. She ran for prom king, she said, to break the barrier for future transgender students.

citizenlink.org

EDGE Boston :: *Gay Boston* :: News :: GLBT
Vermont House Votes to Add Transgender Protections
 by Kilian Melloy

The Vermont State House of Representatives voted May 2 to widen the scope of state anti-discrimination laws to include gender identity. edgeboston.com

Did you catch "South Park" satire on programs that "cure" gay people?

Posted on May 4, 2007 8:14:18 AM

Comedy Central reran a particularly potent "South Park" Wednesday. The series skewered religious groups, like Orlando-based Exodus International, that claim to "cure" gay people.

In response, Exodus Vice President Randy Thomas told the Sentinel: " 'South Park' shows no regard for the people behind the serious issues they repeatedly mock, and this episode is no different. Many former homosexuals have found reparative therapy to be a beneficial tool in dealing with life-dominating issues, and this topic is no laughing matter to us."

Did you see the show? What do you think?

http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/entertainment_tv_tvblog/2007/05/did_you_catch_s.html

New report on gay/lesbian parents

The Williams Institute, a think tank that specializes in sexual orientation law, and the Urban Institute have released a report on gay and lesbian parents. Among its findings:

- * More than half of gay men and 41 percent of lesbians want to have a child.
- * Same-sex couples raising adopted children are older, more educated, and have more economic resources than other adoptive parents.
- * An estimated 2 million gay men, lesbians and bisexuals - called "GLB people" in the report - are interested in adopting.
- * California has the highest number of adopted children living with gay and lesbian parents - 16,000.

The report says its findings suggest "GLB people are an underutilized pool of potential adoptive parents."

You can read the whole study at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/home.html>

'I'm a Girl' -- Understanding Transgender Children

Parents of Transgender 6-Year-Old Girl Support Her Choice Six year old Jazz is a transgender girl. (Heidi Gutman/ABC From 2020)

By ALAN B. GOLDBERG and JONEIL ADRIANO

From the moment we're born, our gender identity is no secret. We're either a boy or a girl. Gender organizes our world into pink or blue. As we grow up, most of us naturally fit into our gender roles. Girls wear dresses and play with dolls. For boys, it's pants and trucks.

But for some children, what's between their legs doesn't match what's between their ears -- they insist they were born into the wrong body. They are transgender children, diagnosed with gender identity disorder, and their parents insist this is not a phase.

abcnews.go.com

Body of trans woman dressed as boy at viewing

by Heather Cassell
h.cassell@ebar.com

Friends and community members are upset that the body of murdered Latina transgender Ruby Ordeñana was dressed as a boy for a memorial viewing earlier this month.

As friends and Bay Area family members arrived to pay their respects to Ordeñana at Driscoll's Valencia Street Serra Mortuary in San Francisco on April 2, the mortuary received a phone call from the Nicaraguan Consulate.

The consulate, according to funeral director Ruth Maltez, received word that a community viewing was going to take place. According to Maltez, who already had Ordeñana dressed in the dress suit that her friends purchased for her, Ordeñana's father contacted the consulate and requested that she be dressed as a boy. ebar.com

HRC and National Center for Transgender Equality Release Groundbreaking Guide About Coming Out as Transgender

The Human Rights Campaign and the National Center for Transgender Equality recently pooled their expertise and resources to produce a groundbreaking resource guide, *Coming Out as Transgender*. The new publication, available in print and on line, offers step-by-step guidance in talking with friends, co-workers and family about being transgender.

247gay.com

Gay & Lesbian Film Fest: It's bigger, bawdier, better

By Dan Hudak

If you thought the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival peaked riding the Brokeback wave last year, you'd be sadly mistaken. This year's festival, which begins Friday and runs through May 6, has more films. More parties. More than 130 filmmakers attending. It has titles like *Hollywood Kink* and *Lezploitation: Triple X Selects*. This isn't just a film festival -- it's an event.

Of course, it's not all fun and games. The documentary *Saving Marriage* chronicles the two-year fight to keep gay marriage legal in Massachusetts.

"And it's timely because in 2008 the ballot will come to Florida about gay marriage," said festival director Carol Coombes. "Massachusetts is still the only state that legally allows gay marriage."

southflorida.com

Charges Dropped Against Florida Gay Leader

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Largo, Florida) Charges have been dropped against the head of Florida's largest LGBT civil rights organization stemming from an incident at Largo City Hall the night transgender City Manager Susan Stanton was fired.

Nadine Smith, the executive director of Equality Florida, was arrested when she objected to being told by a city police officer she could not hand out flyers supporting Stanton in the lobby of City Hall. (story)
<http://www.365gay.com>

High school PTA rejects PFLAG ad

A Utah high school's Parent-Teacher Association is deliberating with the National PTA over the inclusion of an ad from a gay family group. The advocacy group Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays placed an advertisement in the National PTA magazine, highlighting its scholarship program.

According to the Salt Lake Tribune, Bountiful High School PTA's letter to the national organization says that the ad promotes "alternative lifestyles" to the nation's youths. The ad states that parents must "stand up for and celebrate the innateness of biological gender and the decency and tradition of heterosexual relationships." The letter was posted on the school's Web site and then removed after principal Ryck Astle realized it was up, according to the article.

advocate.com

Edwards announces backing of gay supporters

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Democrat John Edwards is touting prominent gay supporters who have signed on to his presidential campaign, including a former adviser to President Clinton.

Businessman David Mixner is one of 25 people listed on a news release that the Edwards campaign distributed today.

The release also includes a statement from the candidate saying he is honored to have the backing of so many respected gay leaders.

Edwards is making a push for gay support in the competitive Democratic presidential primary. In February, he came out in support of legislation that would end the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prevents people who are openly gay from serving in the military.

wwaytv3.com

Assembly Committee Oks Gay Marriage Bill

April 10, 2007

SACRAMENTO — A state Assembly committee has approved legislation that would allow gay couples to marry.

The bill by Assemblyman Mark Leno of San Francisco passed the Judiciary Committee today on a seven to three vote despite a veto threat from Governor Schwarzenegger and continuing debate over the legislation's constitutionality. fox40.trb.com

Gay rights bill wins final approval from Oregon lawmakers

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's gays and lesbians will gain protection from discrimination under a bill that won final approval Thursday and now goes to Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who plans to sign it.

oregonlive.com

Gay Relationship Recognition Moved in Three More States

By: ANDY HUMM

New Hampshire moved toward becoming the first state to enact a civil union bill without the threat of a court case, with a Senate hearing on the matter after last week's 243-129 House vote for it. The law would provide all the rights of marriage, its sponsors say.

In Connecticut, where civil unions are legal and same-sex marriage is banned, a bill opening marriage to gay couples passed the Judiciary Committee 27-15 and now moves to the full House and Senate. Republican Governor Jodi Rell has threatened a veto.

The Washington State House voted 63-35 for a limited domestic partners bill that has earlier passed the Senate. Democratic Governor Chris Gregoire has promised to sign it. It covers gay partners and all couples over 62.

gaycitynews.com

Protecting Our Youth

by Sharon Cole

A little bit of history took place for our LGBT Youth within the past year. Interestingly, it happened in a city well known for history—more specifically, the U.S. Constitution. The Philadelphia School District voted to include Gay and Lesbian History Month, which is October, on its 2006-2007 academic calendar—a feat some deemed as one small step for gay acceptance, and just maybe a giant leap for the welfare of gay youth.

edgeboston.com

11th Annual National Day of Silence sure to be loud

NEW YORK - Get ready for campuses all over the country to be a little quieter. On Wednesday, April 18, 2007 students nationwide will be commemorating the national Day of Silence. They will be quiet all day to protest the discrimination, harassment and abuse—in effect, the silencing—faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and their allies in schools.

The Day of Silence, a project of GLSEN, will be held during school hours. Hundreds of thousands of students are expected to participate on April 18, many of whom will wear stickers and pass out 'speaking cards' that read:

"Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies in schools. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"

dayofsilence.org

Alaska in Battle Over Same-Sex Benefits

The Alaska House will consider a joint resolution to place a constitutional amendment on the 2008 ballot that would overturn court-ordered benefits for the same-sex partners of state employees.

citizenlink.org

Catholic Group Calls For Veto Of Gay Adoption Bill

(AP) DENVER Roman Catholic leaders in Colorado Tuesday spoke out against a bill that would allow gay couples to adopt children together.

Current state law allows gay individuals to adopt, and married couples can adopt each other's children as stepparents. House Bill 1330 would simulate the stepparent adoption process for unmarried couples, including same-sex partners.

cbs4denver.com

N.H. lawmakers approves civil unions for gay couples

CONCORD, N.H.---- New Hampshire lawmakers voted Thursday to authorize civil unions and sent the measure to Gov. John Lynch, who announced last week that he would sign it.

This legislation is a matter of conscience, fairness and of preventing discrimination, said Colin Manning, a spokesman for the Democratic governor. It is in keeping with New Hampshire's proud tradition of preventing discrimination.

Three other states already offer civil unions for gay couples: New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont. Neighboring Massachusetts in 2004 became the only state to allow gay marriage.

Unlike other states, there was no active court challenge to push New Hampshire to act on the issue.

suntimes.com

The evolution of gay rights

On May 15, 2004, a cultural revolution seemed to be taking place. That day, under authority given by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, gay couples in the Bay State were first allowed to marry. Dozens rushed to city and town clerks to secure the licenses to allow them to wed. Images of same-sex couples dominated the news, making some joyful, others angry. Both opponents and proponents of gay marriage predicted the state's decision to allow gay marriage would trigger a sweeping change across the country.

In nearly three years since, there has been change, but it has been gradual. The change can be seen in Congress where long-dormant gay rights legislation may be passed in the coming year.

Led by U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, a Democrat who represents part of the Attleboro area, a push has been revived to install a federal ban on workplace discrimination against gay, lesbian and transgender workers, a move that is necessary because it is now legal for employers in 33 states to fire someone for being gay.

"This is about really protecting people," said Frank, who is openly gay, at a Tuesday news conference. "It is seeking people's right to be able to get a job, to get promoted, to be treated on the job based solely on job performance."

thesunchronicle.com

PFLAG Praises House Passage of Landmark Hate Crimes Legislation

WASHINGTON, May 3 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) applauded the House of Representatives today for its passing of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (LLEHCPA), legislation that would extend federal law to cover crimes motivated by hatred for people based on their gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. LLEHCPA was introduced into the House of Representatives as H.R. 1592, and passed today with a vote of 237-180.

pr-inside.com

In The Life is a national television series in a newsmagazine format that reports on LGBT issues and culture.
<http://www.inthelifetv.org/>

WMFE Channel 24 Orlando
Voices of Pride

Wednesday, June 20 , 11:30 PM

Berkeley City Council Passed Transgender Study Committee Could Add Surgery To City's Health Plan

May 8 - KGO - The Berkeley city council has unanimously approved a study to add transgender surgery to the city health plan.

Forty-nine-year-old Lynn Riordan spearheaded the move to add sex reassignment surgery to the Berkeley health plan. Ten years ago she began taking hormones and paid for surgery with her own money.

Some Berkeley residents don't believe they should help pay for the surgery, but Riordan says it isn't just a choice.

<http://abclocal.go.com>

Hate crimes bill is symbolic and gives Congress a 'pass' on more crucial legislation.

by DALE CARPENTER

NATIONAL GAY GROUPS are pushing Congress to pass a new and dramatically expanded federal hate crimes law. While the effort has strong emotional and symbolic appeal, it probably has little practical value and may forestall legislation that really can make a difference in the lives of gay Americans.

The current federal hate crimes law was passed in 1968. It covers crimes motivated by bias against a person's race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. It allows federal prosecution only where the victim is engaged in a federally protected activity (like a civil rights demonstration). A separate federal law requires the FBI to report the incidence of hate crimes, including anti-gay crimes.

The proposed law would allow federal investigation and prosecution of hate crimes regardless of the victim's involvement in a federally protected activity. It would also add sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability to the protected categories.

washblade.com

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.