

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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June 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 Varies because of construction and start at 7:30pm

Our next meeting is 7/18/07

What happens to kids raised by gay parents?

Research suggests that they turn out about the same, no better, no worse and no more likely to be gay than other kids

post-gazette.com

A Gay Day twirl through the Magic Kingdom
By L. Halden

Red-shirted gays and lesbians gathered in front of Cinderella's castle during the 3 p.m. Dreams Come True Parade in Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom on June 2. Villainess Cruella de Ville proved a big hit, vamping it up as the parade watchers chanted "Diva!"

It was the 17th annual Gay Day event, where an estimated LGBT crowd of 140,000 stormed Orlando for the weekend of theme parks and parties.

planetout.com



Gay Days at home

Two new DJ compilations bring Disney's gay celebration to your living room - By BUCK C. COOKE

STILL IN THE HAZE FROM starting the summer with non-stop partying in the Panhandle State? Didn't make it down for Gay Days? Luckily, Centaur Records gives music fans the ability to bring the magic of a homo-filled Disney weekend home with the release of two Gay Days-related remix compilations.

washblade.com



Your 2007 Pride Event Committee is planning another outdoor "family picnic" to congregate, celebrate and commemorate the pride that we have in ourselves, in our community and in the lives we lead.

The 2007 UNITE ORLANDO...A FAMILY REUNION is scheduled on **Sunday, June 24, 2007** at Bill Frederick Park (commonly known as Turkey Lake Park) at 3401 S Hiawasse Road, Orlando, FL 32835, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The event ends at 4 p.m. Pavilion No. 1 will be the check-in area. As last year, the outlying pavilions will be available for use upon arrival.

This is an event that can bring together the wide spectrum of our community to share our common values, and to recognize and learn more about our diversity.



Please consider volunteering 1-2 hours at the PFLAG information table. The annual picnic is a particularly friendly and positive experience. A perfect opportunity to spend the day with your LGBT friend and family member. Contact us at pflagorlando@yahoo.com

Feeling the love of PFLAG

by Sean Kosofsky

Everyone should have at least one friend who stands out as an example of pure energy, enthusiasm and charm. These friends are usually smiling all the time, and their upbeat attitude and infectious laugh are so contagious that you just can't help but be in a good mood when you're around them. I am lucky to have many friends like this. It is one of the reasons I love the work I do. I would not have met most of these people if it were not for PFLAG. PFLAG stands for Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The name is synonymous with acceptance, inclusion and a commitment to social justice. No matter where you are - whether it's an office environment, a union hall, or at a church or supermarket - merely mention the term "PFLAG mom" and immediately people know what you mean. The image some of us get when we hear that term is the mom on *Queer as Folk*, decked out in buttons, pins and rainbow colored T-shirts. You can almost picture her saying something sassy and supportive like, "Don't screw with my beautiful gay kid." campkc.com

Orange is the New Pink: The Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival by Charlie Olsky

The stars shone brightly on the ceiling of The Olympia Theater last week, while a Wurlitzer played to an excited audience for the opening of the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, which this year celebrated its 9th year of being one of the first stops in the country for LGBT films. Festival director Carol Coombes drew gasps in a ruffled orange skirt and sequined orange halter as she took to the stage to introduce British director Duncan Roy (previous MGLFF jury winner with 2002's "AKA") for his opening night film "The Picture of Dorian Gray" with the warning that just as Oscar Wilde's novel had drawn both praise and scathing criticism, so too might Roy's queer-themed update of the novel, set in 1980s New York. The titular portrait is modified with the ravages of age replaced with AIDS--which strongly divided its audience. indiewire.com

Gainesville Domestic Partner Registry Moves Forward

Gay & Lesbian - (Gainesville, Florida) Gainesville city commissioners have given initial approval for a domestic partner registry that would give opposite and same-sex couples most of the same rights as married pairs in areas where the municipality has control. gay.netscape.com

So. Fla. Gay Library Moving

The largest collection of gay and lesbian literature in the Southeastern United States is moving for the third time in its history.

The Stonewall Library and Archives' new home is to be in the Fort Lauderdale branch of the Broward County Library, the South Florida News & Sentinel reported. The county commissioners must still approve its lease, but easy passage is expected since the move will not cost the county any money.

postchronicle.com**Teacher Resigns After Placing Derogatory Note On Student**

When it comes to in-school harassment, students usually have their classmates to fear when bullying issues arise. But the parent of one DeLand Middle School student says his son's teacher is to blame for an episode earlier this month that embarrassed and ridiculed his son and that the instructor should be removed from teaching permanently.

Al Bertini of Deltona said his son Michael was mocked and roughed up by other students after Josh Mitchell, his seventh-grade language-arts teacher, affixed a Post-It note with the words "I'm a fag" on his son's back. The situation opened his son up to ridicule and Bertini said one of Michael's classmates attacked him while he tried to remove the note. Worst of all, said Bertini, was that the teacher never apologized. watermarkonline.com

Governor's answer on gay adoption

You are only technically accurate in stating on May 18 that "Gov. Charlie Crist answers a Lake Worth reader's question about adoption by gay families."

The question was whether the indication in his State of the State speech that he would support whatever is best for a child "extended to promoting and signing a bill that allows gay families to adopt." He might have avoided a direct answer by noting that he lacked such authority because Florida's prohibition of gay adoption is a statutory one. He chose a simplistic response: "I support the traditional family. I think raising a child in a traditional family is best."

Since the insufficiency of "traditional" folk to enter the market requires so many children to remain in foster care -- or worse -- his "answer" was much like answering the question, "Do you ever eat poached eggs?" by saying "My favorite form of egg is an omelet."

The least an official owes his constituency is candor, a quality sadly missing from what you called the governor's "answer."

www.sun-sentinel.com

Brazil's gay pride parade draws millions

SAO PAULO, Brazil -- Millions of people packed the streets of Sao Paulo for what organizers said was the world's largest gay pride parade, dancing and waving rainbow flags in a carnival-like atmosphere to condemn homophobia, racism and sexism.

At least 3 million people filled the canyonlike Paulista Avenue, organizers said, surpassing last year's count of 2.5 million. The larger count was confirmed by a police spokesman who is not authorized to be quoted by name under department rules.

seattlepi.nwsourc.com

30 years after the Dade County struggle for LGBT rights

Every June, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community celebrates the ongoing struggle for full equality and liberation. It is a time when we assess where we are as a community and movement by looking back and analyzing past struggles to better plan future victories. In that context, we remember the individuals and organizations that played a role in the past--our heroes and allies as well as our enemies.

In June 1969, police conducted a raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City. The raid was routine at the time. But something different took place that night that would forever change the way lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people view themselves and would be treated by society.

Instead of accepting the brutality, humiliation and arrests by the cops, the LGBT community fought back for three days and nights, pulling up parking meters and dislodging cobblestones, defending themselves against state-sanctioned violence. This rebellion sparked a global movement that in a very short period of time gained enormous traction. That movement introduced great changes in laws and social conduct in the United States and around the world. The "love that dare not speak its name," to use a phrase penned by poet Lord Alfred Douglas in 1894, came out of the closet for good. pslweb.org

Student Center adds unisex restroom

Elise Franco

April Templeman was pleasantly surprised when she saw that the sign on the family restroom on the third floor of the Student Center had been changed to read, "unisex."

Templeman, co-chair of the Queer Liberation Front, said she and other members have been talking with university administration about installing more unisex bathrooms to accommodate transgender students.

media.www.stateronline.com

S.Korea transexual singer ties the knot

A South Korean transsexual entertainer, whose sex change helped the country to change its family registry laws, was married on Saturday.

in.today.reuters.com

Transgender Student Wins Prom Queen At California School

That's why the crown means so much.

"Nothing in life is impossible. Everything is possible. If you can dream it, it can happen," says Johnny.

ksdk.com

S.F. Police Commission Elects Transgender President

San Francisco broke ground Wednesday night by choosing a transgender person to lead the city's police commission

abclocal.go.com

Jewish gay marriages welcomed

The decision should challenge other religions and more traditional denominations to transform their cruel and unjust stance towards lesbian and gay people.

Jewish gays have lauded a decision by the SA Union for Progressive Judaism (SAUPJ) to allow marriage between Jewish couples of the same gender.

The Jewish Outlook: SA Jewish Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Alliance - an organisation representing lesbian and gay people in the Jewish community - said the decision affirmed the full humanity of all Jews. sundaytimes.co.za

The Kinsey Scale of Sexual Orientation

- 0 Exclusively heterosexual with no homosexual experience
- 1 Predominantly heterosexual, only incidental homosexual experience
- 2 Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual
- 3 Equally heterosexual and homosexual
- 4 Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual
- 5 Predominantly homosexual, but incidentally heterosexual
- 6 Exclusively homosexual, with no heterosexual experience

Take a test on your Kinsey scale at

<http://www.technostud.com/public/newsite/klein.htm>

Cyndi's True Colors

INTERVIEW BY AMY MATHENY AND PETER MAVRIK

Superstar Cyndi Lauper entered Gay Games closing ceremony at Wrigley Field in a rainbow flag gown as the Statue of Gay Liberty while singing True Colors. Now, she is taking her powerful activism for the LGBT community on the road with the first ever True Colors tour, which will stop in Chicago on June 12.

Lauper recently talked with Windy City Queercast's co-hosts Amy Matheny and Peter Mavrik (about everything from her Gay Games garb to the tour) as part of the show's 100th podcast, which originally aired May 2. For the full interview, see www.WindyCityQueercast.com .

Reality Check on Lesbian Health

Tyler LePard, RH Reality Check on June 7, 2007 - 8:30am

A friend of mine once walked into her doctor's office and was told that she didn't need to have a pap smear because she's a lesbian. This is a common misconception among uninformed health care providers. However, women who have sex with women are at risk for many of the same sexually transmitted infections as heterosexual women and should still get annual exams.

rhrealitycheck.org

Raising the Bar on "Gay Friendly" By Chris Crain

The seven Democrats running for president have come out for full federal benefits for gay couples, though the devil is in the details.

The bar has officially been raised for what constitutes "gay friendly" in politics. Last week, all seven serious contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination unanimously agreed to pretty much everything but marriage, to shorthand the Human Rights Campaign's lengthy candidate questionnaire.

The real advances came in how gay relationships would be recognized by the federal government. After months (some would say years) of vague rhetoric about "equal rights" for gay couples, HRC succeeded in nailing down some serious specifics for the first time.

We already knew that Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, John Edwards and the other four candidates supported civil unions, but we didn't know that they supported repealing the provision in the Defense of Marriage Act that blocks federal recognition of gay married couples.

sfbaytimes.com

New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch has signed a law establishing civil unions for same-sex couples, the Associated Press reported. Gay and lesbian couples can apply for the same rights as heterosexuals as soon as January. Episcopal Bishop V. Gene Robinson, who plans on being united with his partner, attended the bill-signing. California, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine and Washington State also allow either civil unions or domestic partnerships. Among those praising the measure are organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign and individuals such as Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y.

windycitymediagroup.com

Gay pride march in Rome draws 100,000

A large, controversial gay pride march has taken place in Rome.

More than 100,000 people from all over Italy, many dressed in extravagant and colourful costumes snaked past the ruins of the colosseum on their way to a rally outside the Basilica of St John Lateran.

At the head of the procession was Italy's best known gay MP, Vladimir Luxuria.

abc.net.au

GLBT Historical Society Unveils Nation's First Historical Exhibit on the Experiences of Gay Veterans

Show Opening in June as Congress Plans "Don't Ask Don't Tell" Hearings

The Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Historical Society has announced the opening of "Out Ranks," the nation's first historical exhibit on the experiences of gays in the military. The one-year exhibition opens in June as Congress begins planning hearings on the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" military policy in the fall. "Out Ranks" is a premier exhibit of the GLBT Historical Society, one of the world's largest institutions for of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender historical materials

yubanet.com

Catholic Gay Service to Be Presided Over by Woman By: ANDY HUMM

Dignity/NY, the LGBT Catholic group, will have a woman preside over its Gay Pride Mass for the first time on June 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Judson Memorial Church on Washington Square South. She is the Reverend Victoria Rue, a Roman Catholic womanpriest who was ordained by three Roman Catholic womenbishops in 2005. gaycitynews.com

The Gay Marriage Tax

Just in time for Gay Pride month, the comptroller of the city of New York, William Thompson Jr., has issued a report asserting that legalizing same-sex marriage in New York would be an opportunity for the city and the state to milk the gay couples and their wedding guests for more revenues. "Sales tax on wedding expenditures would add \$4.3 million to the City's budget and another \$5.5 million to the State," the report predicts. "The MTA, which receives a portion of the sales tax, would benefit by about \$500,000. The city would collect an additional \$767,000 in Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue." These revenue estimates assume New York would become a magnet for out-of-state gay couples hoping to get married here, predicting 7,004 New York gay weddings over three years for Floridians, 6,046 New York gay weddings for Californians, 2,508 for Virginians, and so forth.

The newly married gay couples would get stuck at the state level with a "marriage penalty," which, the comptroller's report explains, "refers to the additional combined tax liability for married couples, compared to the liability that would be owed if they were each filing as single." What's more, New York state has a "rate recapture" provision, meaning that say, for couples who earn more than \$150,000, all income, including that below \$150,000, is taxed at the higher rate. What that means is that gay people earning \$80,000 each would, if they got married, be taxed on their joint income at the higher rate, which the comptroller estimates would mean a \$2.1 million increase in state income tax collections.

nysun.com

New Jersey joins states protecting transgender rights

By GEOFF MULVIHILL

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. -- New Jersey has joined a growing number of states by enacting a law making it illegal to discriminate against transgendered people.

he law, which sailed through the state Legislature in December, has received little attention in a state that's gaining a reputation for being welcoming to lesbian, gay and transgendered people. Earlier this year, New Jersey began allowing same-sex couples to unite in civil unions.

newsday.com

Colombia set to recognize gay couples

BOGOTA, Colombia, AP

Colombia is set to become the first Latin American country to give established gay couples full rights to health insurance, inheritance and social security under a bill passed by its Congress.

The measure approved Thursday is expected to take effect soon. It is backed by the country's conservative President Alvaro Uribe.

The measure would allow gay couples in long-term relationships to have the same health insurance and social security benefits as heterosexual couples. It also guarantees that assets accumulated during the relationship will be divided between the two, and in the case of death, inherited by the survivor.

SC and Gay Adoption

Posted by Greg Hambrick on June 12th, 2007

Just back from Baltimore. On Sunday, the Baltimore Sun ran an article about Baltimore as the Central Station for gay adoption. It notes that Maryland is ranked 8th among states regarding gay and lesbian adopted parents. I dug up the list to see where South Carolina ranks, expected the worst. But I was pleasantly surprised to see we weren't the worst, just close to the worst.

Of more than 22,000 adopted children, 279 are living with lesbian or gay parents. That's 1.3 percent of the total, ranking South Carolina at 35 of the 44 states that reported. By comparison, Maryland has 6.6 percent of its adopted children living with gay parents and California (No. 1) has nearly 10 percent.

gaycharleston.ccpblogs.com

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