

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

PFLAG Support Meeting 7:30pm - 9:30 pm 08/15/07
Guest Speaker Reverend Jim Merritt will come and share his experience as an ex, ex-gay and his experiences with Exodus International and their recent statements about a genetic factor in homosexuality..

Former leaders of ex-gay ministry apologize for 'bringing harm' and causing shame

Related Links

Exodus International

Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

LOS ANGELES -- Three former leaders of a ministry that counsels gays to change their sexual orientation apologized, saying although they acted sincerely, their message had caused isolation, shame and fear.

The former leaders of the interdenominational Christian organization Exodus International said Wednesday they had become disillusioned with promoting gay conversion www3.whdh.com

Gay Activist to Chair of Election Advisory Committee

Palm Beach County Human Rights Council

Rand Hoch, a gay activist who served as Florida's first openly gay judge, has been elected to serve as Chair of the Palm Beach County Community Advisory Committee for the Office of the Supervisor of Elections.

outinamerica.com

Florida Gay Library Mired In Controversy

City officials in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., are becoming increasingly divided regarding the creation of a library oriented toward the local gay community.

While city commissioners recently approved the library and the sexually oriented materials it will offer, Fort Lauderdale's mayor has been extremely vocal in his opposition of the facility and its target audience, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel said Wednesday.

postchronicle.com

Coshocton Tribune - www.coshoctontribune.com

Richard Florida, a professor at George Mason University in Virginia, has been **studying the link between a community's economic success and its acceptance of non-traditional cultures**. (Florida taught at Ohio State in the 1980s.) His research shows smaller cities with "artistic, bohemian, and gay populations" enjoy higher income and housing levels than areas that are less diverse.

coshoctontribune.com

Nursing home to cater to LGBT elders

The Elsie Frank House, named after Congressman Frank's late mother, should be completed by 2009

Barry Berman, executive director of the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home Foundation, is working to provide a new model for the care of LGBT elders that could end the days when LGBT people who enter nursing homes feel pressured to go back into the closet. Berman and the foundation are currently engaged in a capital campaign for the construction of the Leonard P. Florence Center for Living, a nursing facility slated for construction on Chelsea's Admiral's Hill consisting of 10 "houses," semi-autonomous residential centers that will provide specialized care to different types of elder populations. One of those houses, the Elsie Frank House, will focus on addressing the needs of LGBT elders.

baywindows.com

FILM: U.S. Military's 'Don't Ask' Policy and One Gay Marine

Under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, openly gay men and lesbians are not allowed to serve in the U.S. military. Some 11,000 gay and lesbian service members have been expelled from the armed services since former President Bill Clinton implemented the policy 14 years ago, among them 59 Arabic linguists.

ipsnews.net

Largest gay parade in Sao Paulo sets world record

[June 25] SAO PAULO, Brazil--Three million people took part in the 11th gay pride parade in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on June 10, making it easily the world's largest such parade ever.

The president of the Sao Paulo Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transvestite Parade Association, Nelson Matias Pereira, said the march down Avenida Paulista aimed to confront homophobia, machismo and racism, according to the Agencia Brasil wire service.

Activists take part in the 11th Gay Parade in Sao Paulo June 10, 2007. (REUTERS/Paulo Whitaker)

worldrecordsacademy.org

New ground in debate on 'curing' gays

Christian ministries who see homosexuality as a treatable disorder are starting to think that choice may not be a factor.

Alan Chambers directs Exodus International, widely described as the nation's largest ex-gay ministry. But when he addresses the group's Freedom Conference at Concordia University in Irvine this month, Chambers won't celebrate successful "ex-gays."

Truth is, he's not sure he's ever met one.

With years of therapy, Chambers says, he has mostly conquered his own attraction to men; he's a husband and a father, and he identifies as straight. But lately, he's come to resent the term "ex-gay": It's too neat, implying a clean break with the past, when he still struggles at times with homosexual temptation. "By no means would we ever say change can be sudden or complete," Chambers said.

His personal denunciation of the term "ex-gay" — his organization has yet to follow suit — is just one example of shifting ground in the polarizing debate on homosexuality.

Despite the fundamental gulf that divides them, gay-rights activists and those who see homosexuality as a sinful disorder are starting to reach agreement on some practical points.

latimes.com

Gay Charleston » Blog Archive » Study: Gays Smoke More

Twelve percent of women in the general population were current smokers compare to approximately 29 percent of lesbians and nearly 27 percent of bisexual women, according to researcher Elisabeth Gruskin, a scientist in the research division of Kaiser Permanente Northern California.

gaycharleston.ccpblogs.com

Bi~Sexuality | AfterEllen.com
Happy, Well Adjusted Bisexual, Coming Through!

I think everyone of every sexual orientation will find they have good and bad moments. Do I think it's a tad bit worse for bisexuals? Absolutely. I've met men who wanted to do the threesome thing and/or were just plain insecure about my attraction to women. I've met lesbians who flat out refused to date me because if there's a penis within ten feet, obviously I'm going to go jump on it. And I've dated bisexual women who've been a prime example of the very stereotype that we're trying so hard to overcome.

However, in the midst of all that, I've met some wonderful people who have negated my OWN growing stereotype against those particular groups. People I appreciate all the more because of the apparent rarity of openmindedness in this world. People whom I cherish and will be in my life until the day I die. I would not wish not to be bisexual any more than I would wish not to be black- God (or Whomever you choose to go with) made me this way, and I like who I am. So, in the end, I'm very happy. If people want to judge me for any reason, orientation or otherwise, then it's their loss.

We're here, we're half queer, get used to it!

afterellen.com

Study: 'Gay-friendly' cities enjoy more economic prosperity

David Edwards and Josh Catone
 Published: Saturday June 23, 2007

Richard Florida, a professor from George Mason University and author of the book *The Rise of the Creative Class* argued that the more "gay-friendly" a city is, the more economically prosperous it will be.

In his March 2007 paper "There Goes the Neighborhood," Florida uses something he calls the "Bohemian-Gay Index" to demonstrate that "artistic, bohemian, and gay populations" have a "substantial effects on housing values across all permutations of the model and across all region sizes." He also found that more open and "gay-friendly" areas generally support higher income levels.

rawstory.com

Anti-gay Hate Crimes Widespread

Nearly four in 10 gay men and about one in eight lesbians and bisexuals in the United States have been the target of violence or a property crime because of their sexual orientation, according to a new study by University of California, Davis, psychology professor Gregory Herek. news.ucdavis.edu

Putting gender pronouns in neutral

By WILLIAM WEIR - The Hartford Courant
 For at least 150 years, people have been trying to solve the pronoun dilemma.

That would be the dilemma that causes ungainly formations out of fairness to both genders: "he or she," "him or her," or "s//he." Some avoid the gender question altogether by speaking in the plural, as in "If anyone asks, tell them what they need to know."

Some people have taken the more extreme approach of devising entirely new pronouns that specify no gender. "Ne," "hizer," "thon," "shem" and "herm" are just a few that have come along, and faded almost as quickly. They're known as gender-neutral, or epicene, pronouns.

The latest such pronoun comes from DeAnn DeLuna, who teaches literature at Johns Hopkins University. Her creation, "hu," would replace he, she, him, her and his. Because it's just one word, unlike an entire set of pronouns, DeLuna says its easier to use than other gender-neutral pronouns. And the word (pronounced "huh"), trips off the tongue easily.

Gender and pronouns have vexed language watchers for some time. At one point, the English language had no clear female pronoun, so it was a monumental shift when "she" emerged in the 12th century. In 2000, the American Dialect Society chose "she" as its Word of the Millennium.

The matter doesn't prey too heavily on most people's minds, but the debate hasn't gone away.
 thestate.com

Florida Rehab Center Offers New Specialized 'Freedom Rings' Program for their LGBT Clients

Lakeview Health Systems offers "Freedom Rings," a new specialized addiction treatment program aimed at providing a safe, nurturing, and gay-friendly environment.

(PRWEB) June 25, 2007 -- Taking the first steps toward rehabilitation can be difficult, and when you have special needs or have received prior treatment, the complications can stack up. Although "gay only" drug rehab has its benefits for some people, others are more comfortable in gay-friendly facilities, which use quality treatment along with "real world" interaction to help in the recovery process. Lakeview Health Systems offers a new "Freedom Rings" program aimed at providing a "real-life" environment for an easy and smooth transition back to the world.

emediawire.com

Gay pride event tests the First Amendment

By: Mike Deeson

St. Petersburg, Florida - Although last year's St. Pete Pride event was considered a success, organizers say it was marred by protesters who carried signs, used bullhorns and were allegedly abusive.

"They were telling little girls that they were going to Hell because they were there with their mommy," says St. Pete Pride board member David Schauer. "They were trying to pick fights."

Schauer says it was a bad situation that "came a step away from becoming nasty and violent."

In hopes of avoiding last year's problems, the city passed an ordinance limiting where people could protest. But the American Civil Liberties Union says that even if the St. Pete Police Department doesn't make any arrests, it is violating people's First Amendment rights of free speech. tampabays10.com

Gay Family Values

Thursday, Jul. 05, 2007 By TIM PADGET

Hollie Seeley and Christy Allen have been together for seven years, own a home in Denver and are raising two kids. So they were disappointed last fall when Colorado voters joined the bandwagon of states that ban same-sex marriage and civil unions. But the couple won a measure of vindication this spring when Governor Bill Ritter signed a bill making Colorado the 10th state to allow gay and lesbian partners to adopt children as couples instead of restricting parental rights to one partner. Now Seeley can legally adopt Allen's biological daughter Amelia, 2, and Allen can adopt Seeley's adopted son Foster, 1, and this ability to become more like other families delights the couple. "Being able to give our children that kind of legal, two-parent security," says Seeley, 36, a medevac nurse, "means more than being able to marry."

time.com

Gay-marriage-amendment opponents ready for fight

By Bill Cotterell

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU POLITICAL EDITOR

A bipartisan group fighting a proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage announced Tuesday that it has raised more than \$1 million and signaled that it will focus next year's ballot campaign on straight voters.

A leader of the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment campaign replied that his forces expect to be outspent by gay-rights groups and other opponents in the referendum defining marriage as a legal union of one man and one woman. Attorney John Stemberger of Orlando predicted it will be a hot issue in the 2008 elections.

tallahassee.com

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