

# 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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Oct 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

**Our next few meetings are 10/17/07 and 11/21/07.**

## National Coming out Day! October 11, 2007!

In addition to serving as Central Florida's largest GLBT Pride parade and festival, Come Out with Pride also celebrates National Coming Out Day (October 11th) and the month of October as Gay & Lesbian History Month. One of the unique features of the event is a month-long history exhibit tracing the beginnings and milestones of the Central Florida GLBT community. A smaller version of the exhibit will also be shown at the main event.

Wikipedia.com has an excellent recap!

**Kissing breaks out on national TV** between two football players for the University of Florida Gators (above). Players claim "nohomo," but "Gatoring" now firmly embedded in gay parlance. [towleroad]

radaronline.com

## Results of recent Sun-Sentinel news polls

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle has been kicked off Broward County's Tourist Development Council for making remarks that angered the gay community. What do you think about his ouster?

Good move. (6095 responses) 51.4%

Bad move. (5767 responses) 48.6%

11862 total response

sun-sentinel.com

## Election officials decide to allow voter surveys

By Paige St. John

TALLAHASSEE -- On second thought, Florida election officials say, it IS alright for political committees to ask voters what they think about the issues.

Rescinding an Aug. 20 legal opinion, the Florida Division of Elections on Tuesday issued a new letter telling a gay rights group it can hire professional pollsters to survey voters on ballot issues.

The organization, Red and Blue Florida, seeks to join with other special interests in polling Floridians on a proposed ban on gay marriage. It opposes any such ban.

news-press.com

### **Gay Marriage Amendment Debate Gets Noisy**

The American Civil Liberties Union hosted a heated debate last night at the Temple Israel of Greater Miami. The topic: the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment -- in layman's terms, a proposed amendment to Florida's Constitution that would make gay marriage or civil unions illegal in Florida. Its proponents want to see the measure placed on November 2008 ballot.

Panelists consisted of two for each side of the argument including, Karen Doering, Senior Counsel for the National Centre for Lesbian Rights; Nadine Smith, Executive Director for Equality Florida; Rev. Nathaniel Wilcox, Associate Minister for the Apostle Revival Center; Jack Thompson Attorney and self-proclaimed staunchly conservative Evangelical Christian.

[blogs.miaminewtimes.com](http://blogs.miaminewtimes.com)

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### **Doctors shed light on abuse between same-sex partners**

BY Diana Moskovitz  
[dmoskovitz@miamiherald.com](mailto:dmoskovitz@miamiherald.com)

Domestic violence isn't limited to straight people.

So the North Broward Hospital District is training much of its staff to recognize the signs of domestic abuse in gay and lesbian patients.

The change came naturally, Dr. Nabil El Sanadi said, because it reflects South Florida's diversity.

They are individuals, human beings, no different than any other patient, said El Sanadi, chief of emergency medicine for the district

[miamiherald.typepad.com](http://miamiherald.typepad.com)

### **Safe Schools South Florida (formerly GLSEN South Florida) launches with \$100,000 matching grant**

Bruce Presley, center left and Robert Loupo, center right, surrounded by some of the youth who work with Safe Schools South Florida.

Board and staff of Safe Schools South Florida recently announced the change of their organization name from GLSEN South Florida. Simultaneously they announced a \$100,000 matching grant from board president Bruce Presley to help underwrite the new organization. Safe Schools South Florida strives to make South Florida schools safer for all students regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, their own or that of their parents.

[miamiherald.typepad.com](http://miamiherald.typepad.com)

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### **Palm Beach County Moves Forward on Transgender Rights**

(West Palm Beach, Florida) By a vote of 6-1, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners voted today to direct staff to prepare amendments to two county ordinances to protect the rights of transgendered persons.

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

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### **Wilton Manors: Transgender identity tentatively added to policy -- South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com**

Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday night to add gender expression and gender identity to the city's nondiscrimination policy.

Commissioners will make a final decision on the ordinance at the Oct. 16 meeting.

The policy already protects municipal employees based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation or medical condition

[sun-sentinel.com](http://sun-sentinel.com)

### Proposed gay marriage amendment lacks rationale

Floridians have had enough of divisive politics over recent years ---- yet that never seems to stop people who have an ax to grind and plenty of money to force discussion.

As of last week, it seems likely that supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage will get their issue on next year's ballot. Florida4Marriage.org, the group behind the proposal, has raised more than \$500,000 (and spent most of that on direct-mail campaigns) and should have the required signatures by Feb. 1. But the group has yet to make its case for altering Florida's Constitution to defend against something that's already banned by state law. As worded, the amendment could also affect the rights of unmarried, heterosexual couples -- by saying that "no other legal union" can be accorded any of the rights of marriage

news-journalonline.com

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### Pa. Unemployment Benefits Law Discriminates Against Gay Couples Court Told

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) A Pennsylvania appeals court is examining whether the state's unemployment benefits law discriminates against same-sex couples by denying people the right to file claims when they follow their partners out of state.

When a married person leaves the state with their spouse who is relocating for work or other reasons Pennsylvania allows the partner to file for unemployment benefits.

365gay.com

### Womenfest draws thousands to Key West NEWS

by Ed Walsh edwalsh94105@yahoo.com

Women take part in the group commitment ceremony during the Womenfest weekend in Key West, Florida.

Overflow crowds of lesbians from all parts of the U.S. and the world packed Key West last week for its 21st annual Womenfest.

The weeklong celebration was highlighted by a street fair, pool parties, a film festival, and a group commitment ceremony.

About 4,000 women attended this year's festival, according to Steve Smith, a sales manager for the Monroe County Florida Tourist Development Council. Smith also works with the gay business organization, the Key West Business Guild, to promote gay tourism to the city

ebar.com

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### More Employers Offer Benefits to GLBT Workers Than in the Past, According to Report - Associated Content

In its sixth year the Corporate Equity Index, sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation found more acceptance of GLBT workers. It reports that more employers are offering full benefit packages to their GLBT workers.

More than 8.3 million workers are employed at companies that met all of the criteria quizzed by the Human Rights Campaign. The study rated various factors including having non-discrimination policies, diversity training, and benefits programs for same-sex domestic partners and transgender employees.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said, "More businesses than ever before have recognized the value of a diverse and dedicated workforce. More importantly, these employers understand that discrimination against GLBT workers will ultimately hurt their ability to compete in the global marketplace."

associatedcontent.com

**Group applauds employers with gay-friendly policies**

Harry Wessel | Sentinel Staff Writer

Walt Disney Co., SunTrust Banks Inc., Sprint Nextel Corp. and Save-A-Lot grocery stores' parent company, SuperValu Inc., are among nearly 200 major U.S. employers that were honored Monday for their gay-friendly policies.

The sixth annual Corporate Equality Index -- released by the Human Rights Campaign, a gay-rights advocacy group in Washington, D.C. -- gave perfect, 100 percent scores to 195 of the 519 major U.S. employers that responded to its lengthy questionnaire.

orlandosentinel.com

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**Groundbreaking Gay Issues Documentary 'It's Elementary' Celebrates 10th Anniversary With Re-Release**

San Francisco-based GroundSpark, formerly Women's Educational Media, today announced events celebrating the 10th anniversary and upcoming DVD re-release of It's Elementary—Talking About Gay Issues in School. The groundbreaking documentary was the first film to show how elementary and middle school teachers can facilitate age-appropriate classroom discussions that include awareness about gay and lesbian people.

gaywired.com

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**Film by Boulder woman features diverse families of gays and lesbians**

By Aimee Heckel (Contact)

What "Anyone and Everyone" premiere. The documentary, made by Boulder resident Susan Polis Schutz, reveals how parents from different backgrounds cope with learning their children are gays and lesbians. [dailycamera.com](http://dailycamera.com)

**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

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