

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 08

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

Next two meetings are the 3rd Wed 6/18/08 and 07/16/08 7:30pm-9:30pm

GAYDAYS.COM June 3 - June 9, 2008

Please go to their web site to see the many dozens of events happening around the Orlando area.

<http://www.gaydays.com/calendar/>

We'd like to thank gaydays.com for hosting the PFLAG Orlando web site!

PFLAG Regional Conference in Orlando Florida 6/6/08 and 6/7/09 at the Regal Sun Resort.

Many more details can be found on the PFLAG Orlando Web Site at <http://www.pflagorlando.org> including the schedule of events.

Gay Days 2008 various venues 3 - 9 June 2008

Gay Days at Disney is comprised of multiple events staged at leading resort and theme park 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 circuit, pool and other assorted parties occurring during the long weekend. Concerts, fund raisers, talent shows, exhibitions, cruises, wedding showcases, wine tasting, a motorcycle run are among the varied events during Gay Days.

The Gay Days festival started with a theme park visit, and theme park visits remain one of the most popular Gay Days activities. Always the first Saturday in June, Gay Day in the Magic Kingdom (at Walt Disney World) is still one of the signature event of the festival. An estimated 40,000 - 50,000 red-shirted Gay Days attendees pack Walt Disney World's original park on that 1st Sat. in June. The 3 o'clock parade down Main Street always draws an unforgettable "sea of red".

culturekiosque.com

Michigan ruling stirs same-sex advocates in Florida

Opponents of an amendment to ban gay marriage in Florida said a Michigan court decision supports their position that the proposed law will jeopardize health benefits for domestic partners.

BY JENNIFER LEBOVICH

A Michigan Supreme Court ruling -- that the state's law banning gay marriage also prohibits same-sex benefits offered to government employees -- is energizing opponents of a similar amendment on Florida's November ballot.

miamiherald.com

American Civil Liberties Union : ACLU Sues Florida High School for Suppressing Free Speech

ACLU Sues Florida High School for Suppressing Free Speech

School Suggests Students Who Support Gay Rights Are an "Illegal Organization"

PONCE DE LEON, FL - A Florida high school has been trampling the First Amendment rights of students who support equal rights for gay people, according to a federal lawsuit filed today by the American Civil Liberties Union. In its lawsuit, the ACLU described an atmosphere of fear and censorship at Ponce de Leon High School, where the school board's attorney says even expressions like a rainbow sticker may mean students are members of an "illegal organization."

aclu.org

Pinellas County expands ordinance to 'protect' homosexuals By CAROLYN NICHOLS

CLEARWATER (FBW)—Pinellas County Commissioners in a split vote April 22 expanded its human rights ordinance to "protect" homosexuals. The ordinance, termed "unnecessary" by family advocates, follows the lead of the cities of Tampa and St. Petersburg which has passed similar measures naming "gays, lesbian and bisexuals" as a group of individuals needing special protection.

floridabaptistwitness.com

Florida becomes 36th state to pass anti-bullying law

(Tallahassee) After eight years of effort on the part of hundreds of students, parents, educators and civil rights groups, the Florida Safe Schools Coalition celebrates the passage today of a statewide anti-bullying bill.

During today's unanimous vote, Senators zeroed in on the issue of whether the broad prohibition on bullying requires schools to address specific forms of harassment, including anti-gay bullying.

miamiherald.typepad.com

Gay rights bill dies in Florida Senat Deutch bill could re-emerge in 2009 legislative session

By JUAN CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

An anti-discrimination bill that would have added sexual orientation as a protected class under the Florida Civil Rights Act was brought to a halt in the Florida Senate on April 23.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Ted Deutch (D. Delray Beach), had a breakthrough moment earlier this month when Sen. Jeff Atwater (R. North Palm Beach) agreed to co-sponsor it. Atwater, the bill's first Republican sponsor, was influential in getting the bill heard in the Senate's Commerce Committee on April 8. The bill passed the committee with a 7-1 vote, but it failed to be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

southernvoice.com

Morgan Stanley Donates \$2500 to SSSF

Investment banker Morgan Stanley recently donated \$2,500 from its Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) to Safe Schools South Florida (formerly GLSEN South Florida) on behalf of Morgan Stanley investment executive and Safe Schools South Florida board member, Daniel M. Pye.

"Morgan Stanley supports its employees' philanthropy," said Pye, who has served on the Safe Schools South Florida board of directors for five years. "The company believes that if an employee is willing to commit his own time and energy for a worthy cause, the firm should participate as well which is why they offer these VIP grants."

"We appreciate this generous gift from Morgan Stanley," said Bruce Presley, president of the Safe Schools South Florida board. "Dan is an important part of our organization and this is one more contribution he has made to our efforts to make South Florida schools safer for all students -regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

"Morgan Stanley has made a major commitment to the gay community in South Florida," said Pye who has been instrumental in sponsoring a number of events including the gay film festivals in Miami and Fort Lauderdale as well as providing support to increased communications among gay service agencies. As an active participant in our community for many years now I am honored to work for a firm that from top to bottom truly understands and is committed to the LGBT community.

California's top court overturns gay marriage ban By LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a monumental victory for the gay rights movement, the California Supreme Court overturned a voter-approved ban on gay marriage Thursday in a ruling that would allow same-sex couples in the nation's biggest state to tie the knot.

Domestic partnerships are not a good enough substitute for marriage, the justices ruled 4-3 in an opinion written by Chief Justice Ron George.

ap.google.com

Day of Silence 'Enormous Success' Despite Hiccups By Daryl Hannah

The 12th annual Day of Silence was an "enormous success," with a 40 percent increase in participation over last year, according to the day's national sponsor, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

More than 7,000 schools participated in Friday's Day of Silence, a day when LGBT students and their supporters refrain from speaking in protest of anti-gay harassment. Yet GLSEN reports that not all was "smooth sailing."

diversityinc.com

"To better serve transgender students"

Following national trend, Stanford University to provide some "gender-neutral" student housing beginning this fall

Stanford University has joined a growing number of colleges nationwide that are offering not just coed dorms or coed floors in dorms, but coed rooms. This coming fall, Stanford will initiate a one-year pilot program of "gender-neutral" housing options to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

calcatholic.com

HRC leader stands by non-inclusive ENDA decision 'Learned the degree of pain' from community by Todd A. Heywood

ANN ARBOR -

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign in Washington D.C., told BTL last week that he and his organization stood by their decision to support a non-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act bill on the House floor, but they had underestimated the pain such an action would cause.

"What we learned obviously was the degree of pain that it was going to cause in the community," Solmonese said during a wide ranging 45 minute interview.

"For all of the rational arguments about this as a building block towards something bigger, the sentiment particularly in the transgender community that this was code for - you know- 'we are leaving you behind.'"

pridesource.com

Third gender option in TN college forms

COIMBATORE: After providing ration cards and welfare board for transsexuals, the Tamil Nadu government, for the first time in the country, has officially opened the Arts and Science colleges to the third gender.

In a unique concession for them, all the government and aided colleges will admit them as "transgenders" and they will share 30% of the seats reserved for women.
timesofindia.indiatimes.com

Knotty start to Koovagam's transgender festival

KOOVAGAM: THE Koothandavar temple that draws about 70,000 transgenders, homosexuals and crossdressers from all over the country - nay the world - every year in a flagrant celebration of alternate sexuality on the last night of the annual Chitrai festival witnessed a solemn ritual on Wednesday with two elderly male couples tying the knot, symbolising Aravan's wedding to Krishna in his Mohini avatar.
newindpress.com

Conflict Corner: On sexual orientation in kids

BY PRISCILLA DAMES

Questions:

I attended your workshop on gender and sexual orientation recently, and I have two questions. What if a student wants to 'come out' to you? And, what if the gay kids are approaching the straight kids?

Lisa Clark, MS, LSW
Miami

Answers:

Lisa, this is a very sensitive topic and the answer may vary depending on which county you live in.

Each school district establishes its own policy to address GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & questioning) students and relative issues. For example, Miami-Dade County Public Schools requests that counselors and teachers discourage self disclosure (coming out).

Though it is an honor to realize that a child trusts you enough to share such personal information, the confidant does not know enough about the home environment. Hopefully, it is an accepting, loving one; however, there is reason for concern. According to several national studies, more than 50 percent of youth are thrown out of their homes by parents/guardians after coming out. More than 60 percent of homeless youth identify as GLBTQ. Many who stay are rejected in other ways, or they are physically, emotionally, or mentally abused.

sfltimes.com

Florida Principal Ordered to Allow Gay Messages

By: ANDY HUMM

A federal judge in Florida ruled that a high school principal's suppression of messages of support for gay people is unconstitutional.

Judge Richard Smoak of the US District Court in the Northern District there ordered David Davis, principal of Ponce de Leon High School in Panama City, to end "censorship of students who want to express their support for the fair and equal treatment of gay people," the American Civil Liberties Union, which argued the case in a two-day trial, said in a release. gaycitynews.com

Michigan court ruling puts gays in a quandary**Partners of state employees barred from receiving benefits** By CHRIS JOHNSON

A Michigan Supreme Court ruling last week denying same-sex partner health benefits for state employees is prompting at least one state university professor to flee Michigan as gay advocacy groups elsewhere point to the decision as an indicator of the kinds of problems caused by same-sex marriage bans.

washingtonblade.com

Marriage is a legal arrangement that should benefit all Americans Denise Tiller, Midwest Voices 2008

A couple of years ago, my husband was struggling with the concept of gay marriage. I asked him two questions: Would gay marriage change how he felt about me? Would gay marriage change the vows we took?

He didn't hesitate to say no to both questions. So I asked him to give me an unselfish reason to prohibit loving couples to make a committed relationship? He couldn't.

Marriage means different things to different people, but for all of us, marriage is a legal contract. The government issues licenses and grants couple rights and privileges by law. This rights and privileges are so complex, it takes lawyers and courts to unwind them.

Every argument against gay marriage is religious-based, and not everyone shares the same religious views. If we say marriage is meant for procreation, than my widowed, now 93 year old, father-in-law couldn't have gotten married six year ago to a delightful woman who has made him so happy I'm sure it's extended his life.

voices.kansascity.com

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