

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, The Wesley Ministries and Education Building is on the corner of South Street and Magnolia across South Street from our original location Room 313, 7-9pm.

Next two meetings are the 3rd Wed 8/20/08 and 09/17/08 7:00pm-9:00pm

August 2, 1981: PFLAG is founded in Los Angeles by Adele Starr. Today PFLAG has 200,000 members in 500 affiliates nationwide

What is PFLAG?

PFLAG is the only non-gay organization dedicated solely to the purpose of healing family relationships through peer support; education to our members and to the public; and advocacy for the full civil rights of our gay, lesbian, and bisexual family members and friends. Membership is open to anyone who supports these purposes by their active interest and dues.

Sweet Opinion Issued in Whacked-Out Florida Free Speech/Gay Rights Case

The case, *Gillman v. Holmes County School District*, came about in September 2007 when a lesbian student at Ponce de Leon High School in the Florida panhandle went to the principal to report that she was being harassed by other students because she is a lesbian. Instead of addressing the harassment, the principal grilled her about being a lesbian, told her that being a lesbian is "not right," demanded her parents' phone number so he could call them to out her, and threatened her with suspension if she didn't stay away from the students who were harassing her.

Fortunately, many students at the school were a bit more, well, principled than their principal, and upon hearing about the ordeal the lesbian student had gone through they started a movement to support LGBT students at their school. The "GP" or "Gay Pride" movement, as the students called it, consisted of pretty innocuous stuff — wearing rainbow t-shirts, writing "GP" on their notebooks, and so on. The principal huffed and puffed and, according to U.S. District Judge Richard Smoak: (The principal) embarked on what can only be characterized as a "witch hunt" to identify students who were homosexual and their supporters, further adding fuel to the fire. He went so far as to lift the shirts of female students to insure that the letters "GP" or the words "Gay Pride" were not written on their bodies. blog.aclu.org

HOA Won't Allow Homes To Be Rented To Homosexuals, Unmarried Couples

ORLANDO, Fla. -- An East Orange County subdivision is facing a dilemma. Several residents say the Homeowner's Association at the Rybolt Reserve subdivision in Orange County is discriminating against renters.

"The Homeowner's Association is totally out of control," said Suzane Musashe of Jander Property Management. Musashe leases homes for investors in Rybolts Reserve. She said the association is refusing to rent to gay couples or other adults who are not married. "I feel like I am back in the 60's because there is such discrimination going on," said Musashe. The rental rules are clearly laid out in the HOA resolution. It says Rybolts Reserve is a family oriented community and the board seeks to preserve the character of the community.

wftv.com

The Bay Area Reporter Online | Massachusetts House OKs repeal of 1913 law

Massachusetts House OKs repeal of 1913 law NEWS by Lisa Keen

Governor Deval Patrick has pledged to sign the bill repealing Massachusetts' 1913 law.

There's a small mystery surrounding a big victory in same-sex marriage in Massachusetts these days.

First, the victory: The Massachusetts House voted 118-35 Tuesday, July 29, to join the Senate in repealing a state law that has been used to prevent out-of-state same-sex couples from coming to Massachusetts to obtain marriage licenses. Democratic Governor Deval Patrick has already indicated he will sign the legislation. That means, soon, that gay couples from other states will be able to obtain marriage licenses in Massachusetts as well as California. ebar.com

How Tracy Became "The Pregnant Man" - IslamOnline.net - Health & Science

What is Sex Change?

To get the terminology straight, 'sex' refers to biological status as male or female. It includes physical attributes such as sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia.

'Gender' on the other hand is a term that is often used to refer to ways that people act, interact, or feel about themselves, which are associated with boys/men and girls/women.

Sex change is a process that emerged to help people who had medical conditions that needed treatment. People with the intersex condition would have what is known as ambiguous genitalia, a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. (Mayo Clinic)

islamonline.net

Thailand Highschool Will Have Transgender Bathrooms

Posted Jul 7, 2008 by Can Tran (TFactor) in World | 274 views

Advertising

The country of Thailand has taken an initiative to be consideration towards the country's own transgender community.

Recently, a high school in northern Thailand called Kampong had launched what could be a start of an initiative to extend courtesy and consideration towards the country's transgender community. Mainly, this one high school has taken the initiative towards making restrooms for transgender students. This has taken into effect back in May and the symbol is a guy on one half and a girl on the other side. digitaljournal.com

Trans momentum on Capitol Hill - Washington Blade: Gay and Lesbian News, Entertainment, Politics and Opinion

I'm sure if you did the research, you'd find at least 50 years of references in the congressional record, stretching back to Christine Jorgensen's initial return to the United States in 1953.

It's not that the topic was broached that is important here. What stands out is that last week's hearing marks the first substantive hearing expressively on transgender workplace discrimination.

Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.), a longtime supporter of transgender rights, spoke. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who supports us when it's politically expedient, also took the microphone. Shannon Minter — fresh from his big California marriage victory — was there, as were many others from across the country. It was a big deal, and a big, big step for the transgender community.

washingtonblade.com

Judge rules in favor of school's gay-straight alliance

By Christina Denardo

Federal Judge K. Michael Moore has ruled that the Okeechobee County School Board must allow a gay-straight alliance club to meet on campus. In a precedent-setting order, the judge upheld his earlier ruling that GSAs do not interfere with abstinence-only education and in a legal first, holds that schools must provide for the well-being of gay students, according to the ACLU which filed a lawsuit against the school district. In the order, the court grants students in the GSA "all the rights and privileges granted to other noncurricular groups."

palmbeachpost.com

Co-ed Bedrooms? Reported by: Nichelle Sullivan

A lot of colleges offer co-ed dorms and now some are taking it a step further with co-ed bedrooms. Some universities, including one in New York, now allow men and women to be roommates. An estimated two dozen universities allow men and women to room together. At Sarah Lawrence it's called all gender housing, available after freshmen year. Allen Green, a dean at Sarah Lawrence explains the policy first came about when transgender students expressed discomfort with the traditional male/female identification. But since then it's grown to include other students, most of whom are just good friends and not romantically involved.

nwahomepage.com

Fla. district must pay \$325,000 for banning pro-gay symbols

Principal loses position, will remain at school as an American government teacher

FLORIDA — A federal judge ordered Holmes County School Board to pay \$325,000 in attorney fees in a ruling that said the principal at Ponce de Leon High School violated students' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Ponce de Leon junior Heather Gillman sued the school district and then-Principal David Davis in January, claiming Davis prohibited students from wearing clothing, stickers and buttons supporting gay rights.

The students started the gay-rights movement at the school in September 2007 after Davis criticized a senior who said middle school students harassed her because she is a lesbian. Davis told her that homosexuality is a sin, told her to stay away from younger students and informed her parents she is a lesbian, according to court documents. splc.org

Gay-Friendly Groups Call on Straight Americans to Make a Difference at 2nd Annual Seven Straight Nights for Equal Rights, Sept. 14-20

The 2nd Annual Seven Straight Nights for Equal Rights will be held Sept. 14-20, 2008. Last year the project, sponsored by Soulforce and Atticus Circle, featured nighttime vigils in 36 American cities led by straight Americans showing support for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) friends and neighbors. This year's events will be held amidst a changing cultural and political landscape which includes greater support for LGBT Americans.

prweb.com

Gay-Straight Alliance to meet at rural Florida high school

Judge rules school district must provide for well-being all students

MIAMI (AP) - A school district in rural Florida must allow a Gay-Straight Alliance to meet on campus and must provide for the well-being of gay and straight students, a federal judge ruled, capping a nearly two-year legal battle over First Amendment rights.

Students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate," Judge K. Michael Moore said in a written ruling issued July 29, quoting another case.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of Okeechobee High School senior Yasmin Gonzalez in 2006 after the school principal said the club could not meet on campus. The school gave various arguments, claiming first there were too many clubs, and later that the school had an abstinence-only policy.

gaylesbiantimes.com

Florida Gov. announces support of Amendment 2 Amendment to state constitution would ban gay marriage, domestic partnerships

BY JUAN CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

Governor Charlie Crist's "live and let live" policy regarding the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in Florida is now a thing of the past.

A Crist spokesman confirmed that the governor is undeniably supporting Amendment 2. On Monday, Crist made a statement during an impromptu barbershop Q & A with reporters. When asked his position on Amendment 2, Crist's reply was surprisingly clear.

"I support it," he said.

sovo.com

Mass. allows gay out-of-state couples to marry

Extended for the Online Edition

by Lisa Keen, Keen News Service

There was a small mystery surrounding the latest big victory in same-sex marriage in Massachusetts during the past week—and there were some big hints that, if proponents of same-sex marriage equality can preserve and defend their state's constitution for four years, the battle may be done, at least in that state.

First, the victories: The Massachusetts House voted 118 to 35 Tuesday, July 29, to join the Senate in repealing a state law that has been used to prevent out-of-state gay couples from coming to Massachusetts to obtain marriage licenses.

Moreover, the Massachusetts legislature then passed an "emergency preamble" to the legislation repealing a law used to keep out-of-state gay couples from marrying in the state. The law, signed by Gov. Deval Patrick July 31, went into effect immediately.

Massachusetts was the first state to allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses, in May 2004. But California, in June of this year, became the first state to enable gay couples—resident or non-resident—to obtain marriage licenses. windycitymediagroup.com