

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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August 06

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 at the start at 7:30pm

Our speaker on Sept 20th is Rev. Linn Possell from Hope Unites Church, to speak to us about Be Real which will provide a website, hotline, be a resourcing center, physicians and counselors, support groups, social events, education, trainings for the schools, a weekly food program for the homeless LGBT kids, and a safe house for the kids who are kicked out of their homes. We have three lawyers working with us and a lot of community interest.

4th Annual GayOrlando Film Festival

Saturday, Aug. 19, 11 a.m., ANOTHER GAY MOVIE. A gay comic romp in the tradition of *Porky*™s.

-- **Saturday, Aug. 19, 1:30 p.m., CAMP OUT.** Ten teenagers attend a camp for gay Christians in this documentary. Preceded by the comic short, **AVAILABLE MEN.**

-- **Sunday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m., 50 WAYS OF SAYING FABULOUS.** A New Zealand coming of age tale.

-- **Sunday, Aug. 20, 12:30 p.m., LOVING ANNABELLE.** A highly regarded teacher falls in love

with one of her students. Questions and answers with director Katherine Brooks and Erin Kelly.

More info and tix:

http://www.gayorlando.com/goevents/films/film_festival.html

KANGAGIRL PRODUCTIONS is sponsoring the award winning film **LOVING ANNABELLE** as the closing film at the 4th Annual GayOrlando Film Festival **AND** is bringing in Katherine Brooks (writer/director) and Erin Kelly (co-star) from LA for a reception and Q&A after the screening. **Come out and show them that Orlando is rocking!!!!**

Inspired by the 1931 German classic film, *MAEDCHEN IN UNIFORM*, **LOVING ANNABELLE** is a riveting and unabashedly romantic tale of forbidden student-teacher love. Annabelle is the sexy, rebellious new girl on campus at an all-girl Catholic boarding school. She is drawn to her beautiful poetry teacher, Simone, a straight-laced woman in a tepid relationship with her boyfriend. It's not long before the flirtatious and naughty Annabelle begins bonding with Simone, unleashing buried passions and memories within her teacher. With its subtly nuanced performances and unflinching look at a controversial relationship, **LOVING ANNABELLE** is a lush, sexy and provocative film. **Question & Answer session with Director/Writer Katherine Brooks & Erin Kelly**

Check out the sexy preview plus interviews and production stills at:

<http://www.myspace.com/weloveannabelle>

<http://www.myspace.com/kangagirl69>

Gay advocacy group endorses Deutch, Sachs, Gannon
Published Wednesday, July 26, 2006
by Dale King

The Palm Beach County Human Rights Council, which announced its endorsement of Democratic state Sen. **Rod Smith for governor**, is also backing several office seekers in the Boca Raton-Delray Beach area.

PBCHRC, which has been supporting candidates for office since 1988, describes itself as a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

In a news release endorsing Smith, the PBCHRS also **endorsed Walter "Skip" Campbell for attorney general; Ted Deutch for the state Senate seat in District 30 being vacated by Ron Klein; state Rep. Shelly Vana for re-election in District 85 and Maria Sachs to succeed state Rep. Anne Gannon in District 86.** The group also endorsed Gannon's bid for county tax collector to replace John Clark, who resigned earlier this year for health reasons.

More at <http://www.bocaratonnews.com/>

Governor's Race Democratic candidates woo gay voters

Gay-rights activists said the Democrats vying to replace Gov. Jeb Bush are not their dream team, but they are a lot more sympathetic to their cause than the Republican contenders. BY BETH REINHARD
breinhard@MiamiHerald.com

When **Rod Smith** went to a recent Tallahassee conference of gay and lesbian activists, the Democratic candidate for governor cracked a joke alluding to Brokeback Mountain, the gay cowboy movie.

More at <http://www.miami.com>

Florida Governor Candidate Supports Civil Unions

— Tue, Aug 1, 2006 — Filed by Frank

It's a close race in Florida, but the frontrunner supports civil unions while his opponents do not. You must think we're talking about the general election, but this divide has actually cropped up in the Republican primary. While he still supports the ban on gay adoption, frontrunning (and not gay) Republican candidate **Charlie Crist** approves of civil

unions for gay couples. This is a huge departure from the party platform and especially from current Florida governor and brother-of-W Jeb Bush

More at <http://www.queerty.com>

Candidates lobby gays for support Four Democrats running for a congressional seat speak at a forum in Tampa. By BILL VARIAN, Times Staff Writer
Published August 10, 2006

TAMPA - Democrats running for the District 11 congressional seat being vacated by Jim Davis appealed for the backing of gay and lesbian voters Wednesday in a forum held by a group seeking to advance rights for those groups.

In a year in which gay and lesbian voters appear to be particularly mobilized after Hillsborough County commissioners voted to ban government recognition of gay pride events and displays, all five candidates put in appearances before the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus of the Democratic Party.

More at <http://www.sptimes.com>

Richard Florida: Geography Is Destiny

If you're not in a creative city, says the Carnegie Mellon University professor, you won't attract top talent

Some of the indexes that Florida developed to measure his three Ts have sparked controversy. For example, he included a Gay Index in his calculations of a region's tolerance, arguing that the area's appeal to homosexuals is a gauge of its openness to all newcomers. But Florida laughs when he is accused of harboring a diversity agenda. "I'm a science, technology, and economic growth geek, that's all," he says.

More at <http://www.businessweek.com>

Alternative to same-sex union

Wyatt Buchanan, Chronicle Staff Writer July 27, 2006

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights movement has become too narrowly focused on marriage and needs a broader vision, a coalition of 260 gay leaders and straight allies said.

A statement the coalition released Wednesday -- "Beyond Same-Sex Marriage: A New Strategic Vision for All Our Families & Relationships" -- offers "a new vision for securing governmental and private institutional recognition of diverse kinds of partnerships, households, kinship relationships and families." More at <http://www.sfgate.com>

Washington State Judge Says No Established Proof for 'Born-Gay' Theory, Rules to Protect Marriage
8/1/2006

To: National Desk, Legal Reporter

Contact: Julie Neils of Exodus International, 407-599-6872 or 321-279-8965, press@exodus.to - Web:

ORLANDO, Fla., Aug 1 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The nationwide effort to preserve natural marriage as between one man and one woman has seen recent victories in New York, Nebraska, Georgia, Connecticut and now Washington. The Washington Supreme Court's 5-to-4 decision to uphold the state's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act last week became even more socially significant when one of the justices, Judge Barbara Madsen, publicly questioned the proof for homosexuality as an immutable trait.

More at <http://releases.usnewswire.com>

PA Senate Removes Ban on Civil Unions from Marriage Amendment Pro-Family Activist Blasts Penn. Senate's Civil Union Compromise By Allie Martin - June 26, 2006

(AgapePress) - The president of the American Family Association (AFA) of Pennsylvania says lawmakers in her state have voted to destroy traditional marriage. The pro-family group is decrying a move by Pennsylvania senators that weakened a proposed state marriage protection amendment by stripping from it a ban on civil unions.

More at <http://familypolicy.net/>

Court Agrees To Hear Gay Marriage Appeal

Maryland's highest court has agreed to hear a challenge to the ruling by a circuit court judge in January that the state law banning same-sex marriages is unconstitutional.

More at <http://wjz.com>

Washington to halt publicly funded sex changes published Tuesday, August 8, 2006

Medicaid officials in the state of Washington are taking steps to end publicly funded sex-change surgery. However, the state is required to pay for at least two more operations and will continue to cover hormone treatment and psychotherapy for low-income people diagnosed with gender-identity disorders

More at <http://www.gay.com>

Gay-Straight Youth Club Prevails Against School Board
by Michelle Chen Aug 4

A federal judge has ruled that a Georgia high school must allow a group of students to hold meetings of their gay-straight alliance club on campus. The decision capped the students' lengthy struggle to launch their organization against rancorous opposition from both youth and adults in the community.

More at <http://newstandardnews.net>

Center is a haven for gay youths BY ERIK MAZA

SARASOTA -- The first time Bryan Hadley visited the drop-in center run by ALSO Out Youth, he had just told his parents and peers at Sarasota High School that he was gay.

He was 14 and he didn't know any other gay people.

Over time, the messy orange building on Boulevard of the Arts became the only place where he felt like he was part of a community.

Hadley, now 19, is among the more than 1,200 annual visitors who have helped make ALSO the largest support center for gay youths on Florida's West Coast.

More at <http://www.heraldtribune.com>

Softball Series Set for Ft. Lauderdale By Micah Kushner

Ft. Lauderdale will host 160 teams who begin play next week in the 2006 Gay Softball World Series. The men will have 117 teams in four divisions, while 43 women's team will compete on NAGAAA's biggest stage. This will mark the first time a Florida city has hosted the Gay Softball World Series.

More at <http://outsports.com>

SPAIN'S GOVERNMENT OKS GAY MARRIAGE BILL
The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain (AP) - Spain's socialist government on Friday approved a bill to legalize same-sex marriages, putting this predominantly Roman Catholic country on course to become only the third European country to recognize gay matrimony.

More at <http://www.outinamerica.com>

How a city grows gay-friendly

Gay and lesbian residents have revitalized cities, and their clout's growing in the Tampa Bay area. So is tolerance. But not everyone flies a rainbow flag.

By AARON SHAROCKMAN

Published August 6, 2006

Away from the million-dollar condominiums and high-rise towers, another sign of metropolitan life is emerging.

Gay men and women are thriving in St. Petersburg — whether it's revitalizing downtown neighborhoods, starting new businesses or mustering a political force. The trend has fueled an economic resurgence in a dozen American cities over the past 15 years.

But in St. Petersburg, a city that historically likes the thought of being a small town, the increasing presence of the gay community has produced awkward interactions:

More at <http://www.sptimes.com>

Vermont high court recognizes gay family

Laura Kiritsy lkiritsy@baywindows.com Issue Date: 8/10/2006, Posted On: 8/9/2006

Janet Miller-Jenkins has not seen or spoken with her 4-year-old daughter Isabella for two years. But an Aug. 3 ruling by the Vermont Supreme Court has put them a step closer to a reunion and to the end of a custody battle that has pitted Vermont's gay-friendly laws against Virginia's anti-gay statutes.

In a unanimous ruling, the Vermont high court found that under the federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act and Vermont's Uniform Child Custody that the Vermont Family Court has exclusive jurisdiction in the custody dispute between Janet Miller-Jenkins and her former partner Lisa Miller-Jenkins. The laws effectively prevent parents from taking their children and moving to other states in an effort to dodge custody and visitation rulings they dislike.

<http://baywindows.com> or <http://tinyurl.com/nnyqq>

Gay tourists find 'welcome' signs across Florida

Beth Kassab | Sentinel Staff Writer

Posted August 3, 2006 RELATED STORIES

During the annual Gay Days in Orlando earlier this summer, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau bought a billboard to entice travelers to head south.

Fort Lauderdale has emerged as a hot spot for gay-friendly travel, a market so lucrative that state tourism marketer Visit Florida recently created a task force to explore how to better cater to gay travelers, who are estimated to have \$641 billion in purchasing power this year.

More at <http://www.orlandosentinel.com>

Marriage equality loses in 2 states

By Kevin O'Hanlon Associated Press

Jul 20, 2006, 20:40 Email this article

Printer friendly page

Courts rule on constitutional amendments in Nebraska, Tennessee

David Buckel

LINCOLN, Neb. — Courts handed victories to gay-marriage opponents in two states, reinstating Nebraska's all-encompassing voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage and throwing out an attempt to keep a proposed ban off the ballot in Tennessee.

More at <http://www.dallasvoice.com>

Gay Games Chicago Estimates Attendance

Exceeded 140,000 August 3, 2006

"Attendance at Gay Games Chicago events exceeded 140,000 - 40,000 more than we had projected," said Kevin Boyer, Gay Games Chicago Co-Vice Chair. "We estimate that attendance at events organized by the Gay Games was 107,500 including Opening & Closing Ceremonies, the Gay Games Expo, and all of the sports & cultural events. Official affiliated events and parties had an additional estimated attendance of 33,000 throughout the week."

<http://www.chicagopride.com>

PFLAG CALLS VATICAN'S POLICY ON GAYS HARMFUL OIA Newsdesk

WASHINGTON - A new instruction from the Vatican that calls for the removal of gay priests and places a ban on gay seminarians and supporters of "gay culture" is being labeled as destructive to families of faith by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

More at <http://www.outinamerica.com>

Schizophrenia: The Bearded Lady Disease - New Book Offers Evidence that Mental Illness Caused by Bisexual Conflict and Gender Confusion

LARKSPUR, Calif., July 25, 2006 -- Schizophrenia remains a mystery for many patients and doctors, but in his new book *Schizophrenia: The Bearded Lady Disease* (now available through AuthorHouse), J. Michael Mahoney offers evidence for a theory that would not only explain the cause of this particular ailment, but the root cause of all functional mental illness.

Mahoney has spent 40 years investigating this theory about mental dysfunction. In this collection of 639 quotations from psychologists, patients and the biographers of famous schizophrenics throughout history, he outlines the theory that severe, unconscious bisexual conflict and gender confusion are the primary causes of all mental illness. He draws from the writings of other doctors who believed that such gender identity crises sparked abnormalities in the brain, and their opinions, in addition to the dozens of other ideas, provide "unshakeable truth" to this hypothesis.

More at <http://www.ereleases.com>

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH TO PROVIDE DOMESTIC BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES OIA Newsdesk

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. - The City of Delray Beach will become the next public employer in Florida to provide domestic partner benefits for its employees.

At a workshop last night, the City Commissioners addressed the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council's request for the city to provide domestic partner benefits and to prohibit discrimination in city employment based on sexual orientation, marital status and familial status.

More at <http://www.outinsarasota.com>

A history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender milestones, in Vancouver and around the world. By Rob Peters Published: August 4, 2006

[Editor's note: On Sunday, August 6, Vancouver will celebrate human rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people with the city's 28th annual Pride Parade. The world has come a long way since Sweden decriminalized homosexuality more than 60 years ago. The timeline below documents the changing rights landscape in Vancouver and around the world.

1940s:

- In 1944, Sweden decriminalizes homosexuality.
- In 1945, the liberation of concentration camps by Allied forces; those interned for homosexuality are required to serve the full term of their sentences.
- In 1946, the COC (the Dutch acronym for Centre for Culture and Recreation), the earliest homophile organization, is founded in the Netherlands.

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2006:

- An attempt to stage the first-ever gay pride march in Moscow ends with violence and mass arrests.
- The first regional Eastern European Pride, Internacionala Pride 2006, takes place in Zagreb, Croatia.
- The B.C. Ministry of Education agrees to add an elective social justice course that includes gay and lesbian issues to the high school curriculum.

[We highly recommend you visit the web page and glance at this 8 page history. Very impressive and very relevant!](http://thetyee.ca/Photo/2006/08/04/Pride/)

<http://thetyee.ca/Photo/2006/08/04/Pride/>

SF's Catholic Charities changes program to avoid gay adoptions JULIANA BARBASSA Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO - The social services arm of the Archdiocese of San Francisco announced Wednesday it found a way to help connect hard-to-place children with welcoming parents - gay or straight - without violating the Catholic Church's views on homosexuality.

More at <http://www.mercurynews.com>

Challenging 'that's so gay' EDUCATION / Victoria school board tackles homophobic slur Lori Kittelberg / Xtra West / Wednesday, July 19, 2006

SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE: It's time the adults stepped up to the plate and condemned the pervasive use of the homophobic phrase 'that's so gay,' says Victoria school trustee Charley Beresford. (Sarah Race photo)

The Greater Victoria School District's

"That's So Gay" campaign launch this May was just the beginning, promises school trustee Charley Beresford.

"It's not a short-term campaign. It will be going on for some time," she says. Next month, the district's queer advisory committee will send packages out to school principals reminding them about the campaign and offering suggestions on how to make their schools friendlier for queer and questioning students come September.

More at <http://www.xtra.ca>

Taking back the black gay movement

Why is it all the white-led LGBT groups think they know how to reach out to African-Americans about gay rights? And do they willingly push black queer groups out of the way in the process?

By Jasmyne A. Cannick

An Advocate.com exclusive posted July 11, 2006

Before you cry foul, if what I am about to say doesn't apply to you, keep up the good work. We need your support to get the job done for all of us. For those of you who read this and think me to be against marriage equality; I am not. Remember, I started one of the first black-led marriage equality campaigns in the nation—but enough with the disclaimers.

You may not know it, but there's a contingency made up mostly of white gay people who are conspiring on ways to organize blacks. And not only do they want to organize blacks to spread their message of marriage for everyone, but they also want to do it through black gays.

Yeah, I said it. Somebody needed to.

The relationship between black gay organizations and some of the other gay groups is strained. Publicly, those groups embrace us and applaud our efforts as blacks, but behind closed doors they're figuring out how to move us out of the picture and do the job that we are doing.

More at <http://www.advocate.com>

PFLAG raises awareness

Published: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 12:11 AM CDT

By TERI ELSBURY, Mason City

In reference to Pastor Johnson's July 4th diatribe against homosexuals and the "religious church," thank God — and I repeat, thank God — Pastor Johnson does not represent all Christians.

As a friend and supporter of PFLAG, I want to commend the group for raising awareness and addressing the polarization about GSBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) issues.

As a Christian, I am embarrassed to be labeled with one who professes intolerance and Biblical misinterpretation. Jesus gave us one commandment in John 13: 34-35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you."

If true sin is that which separates us from God, then it stands to reason that not loving one another constitutes the greatest of sins. Scripture needs to be read carefully — with attention to the context of individual passages and with attention to the overall Gospel message.

I have never understood why people feel so threatened about someone's sexuality (or lack of) but I am convinced that those fears can best be addressed through education, friendship and the realization that we are all children of God.

More at <http://www.globegazette.com/>

Several news sites move articles behind a firewall creating broken links. Please go to their site and use the search boxes to find more on articles found here.