



Oregon Central Coast Chapter

March 2010

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Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians
and Gays promotes
the health and well-
being of gay, lesbian,
bisexual, and trans-
gendered persons,
their families, and
their friends through

SUPPORT to cope
with an adverse
society

EDUCATION to
enlighten an ill-
informed public

ADVOCACY to end
discrimination and
secure equal civil
rights.

Take Action!

The anti-homosexual conservatives are rallying their forces to persuade people in power to retain the “don’t ask, don’t tell” military policy which dismisses people from the armed services if they are identified as being homosexual. The policy, passed by Congress in 1993, is currently being considered for repeal.

The protesters’ approach is to contact Congressional members and military leaders about a possible change in this policy. You can counteract this approach by asking the same people to support the repeal of the discriminatory policy. More information about this proposed repeal is on p. 4.

Actions to take:

Email your members of Congress.

Call Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates : 703-545-6700 (ask for his office).

Call Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: 703-545-6700 (ask for his office).

Call your local military recruiter's office, and ask them to pass your support for repealing this policy up to their superior officers.



For some fun, check out the following video!

<http://www.funnyordie.com/videos/cocf508ff8/prop-8-the-musical>

People in the News

Ireen Wust

Ellen DeGeneres

Dan Choi

Vikky Cruz and Deoine Scott

James Bowden

"I came out, and I survived. My parents haven't killed me. You have to live your life to make yourself happy. Even if your parents are upset, they'll love you.

"Just weather the storm..It blows over and gets better.

"Once you're 18, you can live your life the way you want."

James Bowden is a proud member of the Oregon Central Coast Chapter of PFLAG, and this is James's advice for people faced with the dilemma of coming out of the closet, advice that comes from his personal experiences. He remembers his high school years in the same way that other gay young adults do—not dating, just hanging out with friends, and not acknowledging that he was gay. As a result, he had a hard time with internalized isolation.

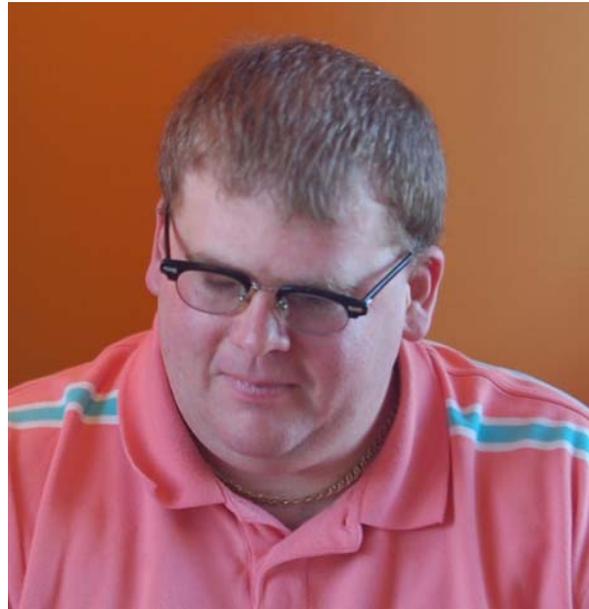
When he came out at a family reunion at the age of 27, seventeen years after he recognized his sexual identity, James found his sense of direction. Most relatives were very accepting; some said they already knew. His father, a career military man, didn't offer much emotional support, just following the "just don't talk about it" approach, despite the fact that his own sister was gay.

Although he annually vacationed here as a child, James didn't move to the area until three years ago. Since then there have been many changes for him—getting together with his partner, learning to live with someone else, and adapting to the different Northwest climate without the usual four seasons. James confesses that he loves shoveling snow in the below-zero wind.

During his first year here he was an apprentice in the Aquarium Science Project, but he decided that he wanted to focus his life on helping others. After a good

friend died of AIDS and he wasn't there to take care of him, he volunteered with the Samaritan Hospice and the Nobody Dies Alone program. Currently he takes medications from the hospital to the homes of hospice patients. He plans to take the Hospice training in April.

James also helps people as a volunteer mentor with special education students in Toledo. Currently he is paired with an autistic child. His goal is to work with special education students after he graduates from college. Majoring in psychology, he has two more classes at OCCC before he moves on to another school.



James found OCCC PFLAG through an internet search. His involvement led him to facilitate a \$5,000 grant from his grandmother's foundation, a philanthropic organization that allows her grandchildren to annually designate funds for non-profit groups.

Thanks, James, for your contributions to PFLAG, both the grant and your time and support.

Politics on Our Side

Responding to a question from a Maryland state senator, **Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler** has issued a 40-page report **arguing that same-sex marriages performed in other states could be recognized in Maryland** under state law. Though the opinion does not carry any weight as law, it is a document that will guide the state and spark controversy across Maryland, where the state's House recently rejected legislation barring the state from recognizing same-sex marriages. *The Sun* (Baltimore) (2/24)

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a **California decision that granted parental rights to a lesbian** whose then-partner had given birth to a child. The partner had sought the support of a conservative religious organization to argue that granting parental rights to her ex-partner after only a few months' care violated her rights as the birth mother. *San Francisco Chronicle* (2/24)

The Housing and Urban Development Department is calling for input from gay residents of New York, Chicago and San Francisco on **how to study anti-gay housing discrimination**. The current challenge is how to design the study to produce data that might eventually help offer LGBT people the same protections afforded to others by the Fair Housing Act. *The Washington Post/The Associated Press* (2/24)

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Maria Sampedro-Iglesia has **approved the adoption of a one-year-old by a lesbian couple**. The January ruling makes the third adoption by gay/lesbian parents in Florida despite a 1977 law banning this practice. A Miami appeals court is currently determining the constitutionality of the adoption ban.

Openly gay Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) introduced the **Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA) of 2010** in the House of Representatives on January 27, 2010. The bill would protect public school students from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Similar to Title IX, the legislation would endanger federal funding for those who violate it. There are currently 60 co-sponsors of the legislation.



Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO)

Following the rejection of a lesbian couple to act as Cub Scout leaders on behalf of their 10-year-old son, **26 members of Congress wrote to Boys Scouts of America asking them to end their discriminatory practices**.

Washington, D.C. Superior Court Judge Brian Holeman **rejected a motion to delay** the effective date, March 3, 2010, of **the city's marriage equality law**, claiming that opponents lacked the power "to usurp the legislative process." They had sought a preliminary injunction to stop the law, which was approved by D.C. council and Mayor Adrian Fenty in December.

Free Video Available From Transactive

The director of “Out of the Shadows” is searching for anyone who has used this free video from Transactive Education & Advocacy to help in the development of up-coming video, audio, and internet-based educational and outreach materials.

Three years old, the video is still free for those working with transgender and gender non-conforming children, youth, and their families. Those interested in seeing the video or helping with Transactive’s projects should contact Jenn Burleton at 503-927-7052.

Plan a High for Your Marriage

If you want to get married on top of the world, go to Mt. Everest. Nepal is set to ratify a new constitution in May that legalizes same-sex marriages, according to a report in *The Telegraph*.

Sunil Babu Pant, leader of the country’s gay rights movement, launched Pink Mountain, a travel agency offering wedding ceremonies on Mount Everest, the world’s tallest peak.

Pant’s company will offer regal, elephant-back processions and wedding ceremonies at the mountain’s base camp.

‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ on Trial

The nation’s top two defense officials called for an end to the 16-year-old “don’t ask, don’t tell” law on 2/2/10, a major step toward allowing openly gay men and women to serve in the United



States military for the first time.

“No matter how I look at the issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens,” Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (above right), told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In contrast to Admiral Mullen, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates (above left) was more cautious, even as he acknowledged that the question was not whether the law would be repealed but how the Pentagon might best prepare for the change.

To lead the review, Mr. Gates appointed a civilian and a military officer: Jeh C. Johnson, the Pentagon’s top legal counsel, and Gen. Carter F. Ham, the commander of the United States Army in Europe. Mr. Gates announced that in the interim the military was moving toward enforcing the existing policy “in a fairer manner,” a reference to the possibility that the Pentagon would no longer take action to discharge service members whose sexual orientation is revealed by third parties or jilted partners, one of the most onerous aspects of the law.

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), the top-ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, said that although the current policy is not ideal, he is “deeply disappointed” by the proposed change.

The list of countries that allow openly gay people to serve in their armed forces has grown to 28, including Canada, Israel, Australia and most of Europe. Societal shifts during the past 17 years are reflected by lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered elected officials. Overall, there were about 50 openly lgbt elected officials in the United States in 1993. Today, there are 460. Sixty-six % of U.S. people polled see the policy as discrimination.

People Who Make a Difference

Dutch speed skater and out lesbian **Ireen Wust** is leaving Vancouver with a gold medal. Wust, who won the gold in 3,000-meter and the bronze in 1,500-meter in Turin four years ago, will be adding another gold to her collection with a win in the 1,500. "Pulling all the pieces together, I'm so proud and happy. I can't describe how happy I am. I don't have words for it," Wust told *The Washington Post*. "I think I'm the happiest person on Earth right now." According to Afterellen.com, Wust came out a few months ago, telling *Helden* magazine she has a girlfriend and is very happy.



Lesbian icon **Ellen DeGeneres** has been named PETA's 2009 Woman of the Year. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is the largest animal rights organization in the world (not to be confused with the other PETA organization People Eating Tasty Animals.) Openly gay style guru and Project Runway host Tim Gunn was named PETA's Man of the Year. "Tim Gunn and Ellen DeGeneres show us that one person really can make a difference in the world by rejecting cruel deeds in favor of compassionate acts," said PETA President Ingrid E. Newkirk. "Their message that animals must be treated kindly and respectfully has reached scores of people, and many have changed their buying habits because DeGeneres and Gunn spoke up for the voiceless."

Victoria "Vikky" Cruz, 17, and Deoine Scott, 18, made history at their South Bronx high school when they were voted "best couple" last fall. When they began dating sophomore year, they encountered some resistance from their peers, but by senior year, that had largely disappeared. According to Maribel, a friend of Vikky's and editor of their high school yearbook, the pair won "best couple" by a sizable margin. "I think now, for other gay people who might go to my school, they will have a chance at getting in the yearbook, since we were the first," said Scott. Both aspiring journalists, they graduated last December.



Dan Choi, a National Guardsman who received a discharge letter after announcing on *The Rachel Maddow Show* that he is gay, has returned to training with his unit. Lt. Choi is a West Point graduate, Arabic linguist, and Iraq War veteran. Amid news reports that senior military figures supported ending DADT, Choi was contacted by the commanding officer, who invited him to rejoin the unit. "He's been on duty," said Eric Durr, spokesman for the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, which oversees the New York National Guard. "He has never left the National Guard." On June 30, 2009, a panel of New York National Guard officers recommended that Choi be discharged from the military. The final decision remains pending.

Group Marches in Opposition To LGBTQ Office Vandalism

Almost 200 people marched through the University of Oregon on February 3, 2010 to show support for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Queer Alliance after its office was defaced with a swastika the weekend before.

The vandal or vandals had spray-painted the symbol on the office carpet and used black spray paint to cover a computer monitor and television screen.

More than 300 people had attended a candlelight

vigil the evening before the march. An anti-hate forum was also held in the Erb Memorial Union, the location of the defaced office, on February 4 with another rally the next day.

At the forum several students and community members spoke about how they were harassed and intimidated over their sexual identity.

They also said that they greatly appreciated the support shown through the marches and meetings.

Beverly Hills Rejects Connection with Miss California USA

Beverly Hills, Calif., issued a statement denying any connection with Miss California USA contestant Lauren Ashley, after Ashley spoke out against marriage equality. The Los Angeles suburb does not sponsor a pageant, but contestants in the state pageant are allowed to choose their own titles. "We are dismayed by any potential association with the city of Beverly Hills, which has a long history of tolerance and respect," Mayor Nancy Krasne said.

Birds Do It, Bees Do It—Now It Seems That Albatrosses Do It!

A lesbian royal albatross couple, nesting on the Otago Peninsula, have become proud parents. The chick, which hatched at the end of January, is one of 17 birds born this year in the South Island. The New Zealand site is the only mainland breeding colony of the endangered animal in the world.

A spokesman from the Department of Conservation, Robin Thomas, said that, while same-sex pairings have occurred before, it's "not common". "One of them obviously mated so their egg was fertile," Thomas said. "Only one egg was laid and that's now hatched." He said the female birds shared time on the egg and that the baby, which struggled for the first 24 hours, was now doing well.

The local tourism bureau, Tourism Dunedin, has put out the call for suggestions for the new addition's name.

Polls Vary Greatly Regarding Gays in Military

The website www.fivethirtyeight.com, administered by Nate Silver, has been the gold medal in predicting elections results for the past few years. In a recent post, he explains why the poll results for positions on "don't ask, don't tell" have varied a great deal. <http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/2010/02/republicans-are-conservative-but-are.html>

According to Silver, the reasons for differing results are timing, wording of questions, and lead-in questions for the survey. For example, 64% of the Republicans surveyed said that homosexuals who publicly declare their identity should be able to serve in the military, but only 26% of the Republicans surveyed said that openly gay men and women should be allowed to serve in the military.

Gallup and Fox surveys differ in that that the former uses the term "gay men and lesbian women" whereas the latter uses "gays and lesbians." Silver said that the use of the terms "men" and "women" humanizes the survey subjects.

The March PFLAG Meeting will include a showing of *Straightlaced*, a newly released video that demonstrates how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are confining American teens. Their stories reflect a diversity of experiences, demonstrating how gender role expectations and homophobia are interwoven, and illustrating the different ways that these expectations connect with culture, race and class.

Straightlaced includes the perspectives of teens who represent all points of the gender spectrum. They self-identify as straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or questioning. Showing courage and humor, they open up their lives to the camera: choosing between “male” and “female” deodorant; deciding whether to go along with anti-gay taunts in the locker room; having the courage to take ballet; avoiding the restroom so they won’t get beaten up; or mourning the suicide of a classmate.

TransActive Education & Advocacy announces their news listerv, Play|rePlay, which will feature articles and reprinted stories from worldwide sources that may be of interest to parents, caregivers, allies and those working to provide support to transgender children, youth under the age of 18 and their families. To subscribe, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/playreplay/>

Over 160 Members of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa have voiced their support for gender-neutral marriage, criticizing opponents who cite the Bible in raising objections. In February, they presented a letter sent to all 150 legislators including the statement "where there is love, the sacred is in our midst."

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

March 10, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

March 17, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS Building, 36 Nye St., Newport

April 13-14: Adolescent Sexuality Conference, Seaside (www.oregon-asc.org); call 541-265-7194 for information about scholarships for teens and parents.

April 14, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

April 16: National Day of Silence, bringing attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying, and harassment in schools

April 21, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS Building, 36 Nye St., Newport

April 29, 7:00 pm: Freedom to Marry Kickoff, presenting plans for a six-month campaign of activities and events—Central Lincoln PUD, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* has the following monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Movie Night," St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night," either Newport, Waldport, or Lincoln City

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck and Game Night," St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. For more information email Dan, coastalaid-network@gmail.com or leave a message for him at (541)994-5597.

*CAN activities are open to everyone, regardless of HIV status or sexual orientation. The only event limited to men is the potluck night, but occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

CLASS Women's Potlucks: Call Jeannette at 867-6993.

Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my membership fee.*

_____ Individual or Household (\$30)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$20)
_____ Contribution \$ _____

*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

Make check payable and mail to:

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
PO Box 2172
Newport, OR 97365

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

PFLAG is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has no political or religious affiliations.



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