



Oregon Central Coast Chapter

April 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!

In 1985, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration instituted a rule banning any man who has had sex with other man from donating blood since 1977. That's a lifetime ban, regardless of HIV status, regardless of one's relationship status, regardless of one's frequency of sexual activity or the believed exposure risk in the sexual activity. In late February, the Gay Men's Health Crisis released "A Drive for Change: Reforming U.S. Blood Policies" to change this rule.

A heterosexual person who engaged in sexual activity with an HIV-positive person 366 days ago is allowed to donate blood. A man who paid a woman for sex a year ago can donate blood today, just as a woman who paid a man for sex a year ago can donate — provided she's 110 pounds or more. But authorities resist lifting the ban against a gay donor, even if he last engaged in sexual activity with an HIV-negative man 3,666 days ago or 7,320 days ago.



Everyone in the LGBT community who perceives themselves as married—no matter what the state law—should indicate this on the census form. For the first time, results will be reported separately from heterosexual couples. "Without data, you have no community portrait, and without a portrait, you have no needs, you have no identity, you have no funding; the census has always had a civil rights component to it," said Jaime Grant, director of the Policy Institute at The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The "don't ask, don't tell" law discriminating against gay and lesbians in the military has been softened, but it still allows the discharge of people who state that they are lesbian or gay as in the case of Dan Choi.

Newport High School GSA

One of many groups for students at Newport High School is the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) a coalition formed by a diversity of students. Two years ago, over 4000 GSAs could be found across the United States, a tremendous growth since Kevin Jennings started the first one in Concord Academy (MA) 20 years earlier.

All children and young adults have the right to safety. GSAs help achieve this goal by supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual students in their battles to attain equal rights and treatment.

Recently I interviewed members of a local GSA chapter.

How have your attitudes changed since you participated in the GSA?

"I believed some stereotypes about gay people, that you could kind of tell who is gay. I found out that you can't do this, that gay people look just like everyone else."

What advantages do you see in belonging to a GSA?

"We can just be ourselves. It's a nicer environment to talk. Nobody is going to yell at you."

"The more we have, the more power we have."

What homophobic attitudes do you see in the school?

"A lot of people who think they're cool

say "that's so gay." This would make gays and lesbians feel bad."

"I hear the epithet that starts with 'f.'"

"Girls have a lot of insults for each other, but guys only have 'gay' or 'fag' to put down each other."

Sponsor Teresa Atwill also pointed out that another insult for guys is 'you're such a girl.' One of the students said that "insults should be more specialized."

One of the activities GSA initiated was a letter-writing campaign to protest the killing of LGBT people in Uganda. Another one is the upcoming Day of Silence on April

16.

One GSA member explained the reason for this day. It represents the silence surrounding gender identify that is imposed on LGBT people so that they can be safe.

Some of their plans for the Day of Silence are described on page 6. The Night of Noise

on the same day will celebrate the fading need for this silence.

Atwill said that the GSA helps some people at school become aware that their behavior may show covert homophobia. Co-sponsor Ann Goddard gave Principal Jon Zagel credit for the success of the GSA because of the support he provides them. She said that he "knows what a hard time kids have in school."

All the students who talked with me agreed that teachers were also supportive of their organization.—Nel Ward



Several of the Newport High School GSA members pose for the year book picture.

Politics on Our Side

Pennsylvania's Republican-majority Senate Judiciary Committee has killed, with an 8-6 vote, a bill that would have amended the state constitution to define marriage as being between a man and a woman, according to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. This is the third time in four years a gay marriage ban bill has been tabled. There was no debate.

More legal wrangling in the federal trial over California's gay marriage ban is threatening to delay the case. The sponsors of Proposition 8 are seeking access to the internal campaign documents of gay rights groups that opposed the measure. The groups, including Equality California, want to block that request. At a hearing last month, their lawyers told Judge Vaughn Walker that the e-mails and memos are irrelevant because the groups are not officially part of the litigation.

The Washington state senate has passed an anti-bullying bill, including protections for LGBT students in public schools. The Senate vote was 48-0, and the bill had previously passed the House 97-0. Governor Christine Gregoire has pledged to sign the bill into law. The law will require, among other things, that each school district create a structure to manage harassment and bullying complaints and publish online its policies and procedures for dealing with complaints.

The transgender community in France won a small victory last month as the nation took transsexualism from the official list of mental disorders – the first nation in the world to make such a move.

States with out-dated laws on the books include California, where a statute calls on the State Department of Mental Health to investigate "the causes and cures of sexual deviation, including deviations conducive to sex crimes against chil-

dren, and the causes and cures of homosexuality." Gender-neutral marriage supporter Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal (below) has introduced a bill to change the 1950 law which was rewritten in 1967.



Lowenthal hails California Supreme Court decision that led to Proposition 8.

Nearly half of the U.S. population -- about 140 million people--lives in states where same-sex couples receive some form of legal recognition, according to this post. States with marriage-equality laws represent about 5.1% or 15 million Americans; those with civil-union or domestic-partnership laws cover another 19.2% or 58.4 million; and states with more limited protections account for another 4.7% or 14.2 million.

Gender-neutral marriages are now the law in Washington, D.C.; Mexico City, Mexico; and Portugal. More information at <http://gaylife.about.com/od/samesexmarriage/a/legalgaymarriag.htm>

Team Effort Brings Books to LCSD School Libraries

School libraries in Lincoln County will soon receive over 120 new GLBTQ books, thanks to a pooling of several resources. PFLAG's grant from Equity Foundation was combined with a generous gift from the Weatherspoon Foundation, donations from individuals and regular book purchases by the school district to complete collections at each school.

Dozens of books were also donated by PFLAG Newsletter Editor Nel Ward, past chair of the American Library Association Rainbow Project, which releases an annual list of recommended GLBTQ books for young readers.

Books were selected based on quality and interest for young readers from kindergarten through seniors in high school.

Source for GLBTQ Books

The Lambda Literary Foundation is launching Lambda Literary, a new online webzine and blog community for the LGBTQ literary community. The site will collect links from online publications on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community and include reviews, articles, blogs and more. The site also features a twitter feed.

www.lambdaliterary.org/

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Law 'Softened'

New guidelines for the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that discharges gays and lesbians from the military if their sexual identity is revealed were announced on March 25, 2010.

The modifications will take effect immediately and affect all cases, including open proceedings that must be scrapped and reinitiated under the new rules. But it will not be retroactive.

During a briefing with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the directive will focus largely on the provision that allows third parties to report gay service members for disciplinary action.

The Department will raise the level of the officer who is authorized to initiate and conduct inquiries into allegations involving a service member's sexual orientation. It will also raise the bar on what constitutes credible information and a "reliable person" on whose word an inquiry can be initiated. Information provided by third parties to military leaders must now be given under oath. The department is also discouraging the use of overheard statements and hearsay.

Certain categories of confidential information, currently used in discharge cases under "don't ask don't tell," will now be off limits. Service member conversations with lawyers, clergy, therapists and other medical professionals will remain private.

Mr. Gates and Admiral Mullen both said that any dissent by military officers to lifting the ban should be presented through official channels, and they chastised a three-star officer who had written a letter-to-the-editor in favor of retaining the current law.

These steps are adjustments in the way the Department applies the policy, not measures that overturn or nullify portions of it. Only Congress has the power to change or repeal the law, which was enacted in 1993.

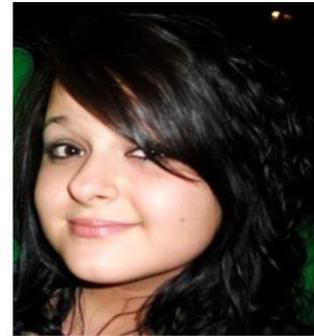
The Pentagon is conducting a year-long review of "don't ask, don't tell" The study is not to determine whether to repeal the law, only how a repeal would be put into place. Its findings will be released by December.

In May 2009, a USA Today/Gallup poll found 69 percent of respondents favored allowing gays to serve openly in the military. A bill to lift the ban, already introduced in the House of Representatives, has 187 supporters, 31 votes short of the 218 needed to get it passed.

'Don't ask, don't tell' modified for all pending and future cases.

People Who Make a Difference

Constance McMillen protested when her high school would not allow her to wear a tuxedo and take her girlfriend to the school prom. The ACLU demanded that the school revoke its ban on same-sex couples attending the dance, and the district announced it would cancel the April 2 event. Reluctant to go back to school the day after the announcement, she went back because of her father. “My daddy told me that I needed to show them that I’m still proud of who I am,” McMillen said. “The fact that this will help people later on, that’s what’s helping me to go on.” A private prom is now being held by invitation only.



Daniel Radcliffe, well known as Harry Potter in the film series, has filmed a public service announcement for The Trevor Project, the leading organization focusing on suicide prevention efforts among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth. The Project, founded in 1998 by three filmmakers, allows young people to call in for counseling or just to talk. Their movie, *Trevor*, which won an Academy Award for best short film, concerned a gay teen who attempts suicide. “I grew up knowing a lot of gay men and it was never something that I even thought twice about—that some men were gay and some weren't,” Radcliffe said. The result is a PSA scheduled to air this spring.

After losing her prom, Constance McMillen (see above) has appeared on the *Ellen Show* and will attend the GLAAD awards on April 17 as the guest of **Wanda Sykes**. Ellen DeGeneres also awarded Constance a \$30,000 college scholarship. Another action to protest the prom cancellation was a call for people to dress in evening wear on April 2. Dress You Up in My Love/The Nationwide Equality Prom is the brainchild of activist Jen Dugan. She suggests that anyone questioning the prom clothes should explain that a school canceled a prom instead of allowing a girl to wear a tuxedo and take her girlfriend to the event.



Derrick Martin will go to the Bleckly County High School prom on April 17 with his boyfriend, Richard Goodman, but got booted out of his Cochran (GA) home because of the publicity. “Everything that I’ve done up to this point has been to show others, like myself in my situation, that you can get your rights. And that you can expect the social rights in school and outside of school,” Derrick said. PFLAG Macon Georgia has set up a Facebook page to support him, and Derrick has set up a paypal account for contributions. He said that he is sending 25% of all donations to Constance Mullen (see above). Also The Atlanta Gay Men’s chorus recognized his achievements by making him an honorary member of the chorus.

Newport Gay Straight Alliance-Goes Silent on Day of April 16

Words are powerful – both when they are spoken and when they go unsaid. Words can hurt and words can educate. The National Day of Silence is an opportunity to silently speak out about queer issues.

On April 16, this student-led day of action brings attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. It acknowledges and protests the discrimination and harass-

ment—in effect, the silencing—experienced by queer and allied students.

At Newport (OR) High School, Gay Straight Alliance students will staff a booth during lunch the week before this event so that students can volunteer to be silent at school on the Day of Silence. They will have stickers to wear and cards to hand out to explain what they are doing. (More about Newport GSA on p. 2)

Degeneres Latest In Bluewater series Featuring Women

Ellen DeGeneres is the 13th woman to be featured in the Female Force series, graphic bios from Bluewater Productions.

The comic follows DeGeneres' bumpy journey through her childhood in Louisiana to her comedy club circuit life and, later, her daytime talk show and all her dance moves.

Sandra Ruckdeschel, author; Pedro Ponzo, illustrator; and Vinnie Tartamella.

Conservatives Struggle with Accepting Gay Politicians

Republican state Sen. Roy Ashburn acknowledged he is gay in a March 8 interview, just days after his drunken-driving arrest led to reports that before the police stop, the conservative lawmaker had attended a gay nightclub. Unable to seek reelection because of term limits, he also said that his decision to scrap a planned bid for US Congress was partially because of issues surrounding his sexual orientation.

This raises new questions about gay Republicans' place within the conservative movement. While openly gay Republicans still face many hurdles, there has been significant change in how many conservatives view sexual orientation, says Charles Moran, spokesman for the Log Cabin Republicans, a conservative group that advocates gay rights.

There are openly gay elected officials across the United States, but few of them are Republicans. There are no openly gay Republicans in Congress. This year, however, openly gay conservative Matthew Berry is vying for the Republican nomination to contest the congressional seat held by Rep. Jim Moran (D) of Virginia. According to Moran, conservatives such as former Vice President Dick Cheney and Meghan McCain, who both support gay marriage, are changing many conservatives' negative views about homosexuality. In Massachusetts' upcoming governor's race, a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor—the state's senate minority leader Richard Tisei—is openly gay.

Others believe that conservatives are a long way from accepting any openly gay ideological compatriots. "While conservatives have embraced the equal rights and equal dignity of Jews, African-Americans, and women, they have not yet reached that point with gay people," said David Boaz, executive vice president of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank.

Nearly two in three college freshmen back marriage equality, compared with 58% of the 18-to-29 demographic and 39% of all Americans, new research from the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles shows. Nearly one in four college freshmen with "far-right" political views also support marriage equality, compared with 14% of conservative Republicans. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (March 16, 2010)

PFLAG Project Updates

At the annual **Adolescent Sexuality Conference** on April 13 & 14 in Seaside, two adults from Job Corps and Lincoln County Health & Human Services and six students will represent OCC PFLAG. This highly rated conference planned for educators, health care providers and administrators, counselors, social and youth service workers, parents, clergy, teens and community members is sponsored by the Oregon Public Health, Adolescent Health Program and the Oregon Teen Pregnancy Task Force.

The three Gay/Straight Alliance groups in Lincoln County will receive supplies for students to use in observing the national **Day of Silence** that recognizes the life of silence imposed on closeted LGBT citizens. Students will receive pads of notes to use during the school day to explain their silence to other students and teachers and stickers to display on notebooks, backpacks, etc. Angell Job Corps (Yachats) and Taft and Newport High Schools have active GSA groups.

PFLAG is providing leadership for Lincoln County's **Marriage Matters** campaign which starts with a community meeting at Central Lincoln PUD at 7 PM on Thursday, April 29. Basic Rights Oregon and Rural Organizing Project, co-sponsors of the project, will describe the work of their organizations at the state level. Plans for a six-month campaign of activities and events will be developed at this meeting and participants will select priorities. Representatives of government agencies, human service organizations, churches, and businesses are invited to take an active role in this important campaign for human rights.

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

April 13-14: Adolescent Sexuality Conference—Seaside

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: Marriage Matters Kickoff, presenting plans for a six-month campaign of activities and events—Central Lincoln PUD, Newport

May 12, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

May 19 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS Building, 36 Nye St., 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

"People who feel and believe that they are part of a caring community can make better decisions."—Dan Beck

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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