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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.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

January 2012

Take Action!

David Hutsell, an undergraduate at East Tennessee State University, needs participants for an online research survey to be used in his honors thesis. The study's goals are to gain a better understanding of the attitudes and personal experiences of LGBT individuals about the LGBT community and how its members interact.

Anyone over 18 years of age who self-identifies as LGBT is invited to complete the survey which takes about 30 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential. www.lgbtintragroup.com.

Exxon Mobil Corp. has become the first business to receive a negative score on the Human Rights Campaign's annual Corporate Equality Index of 636 companies. Exxon Mobil failed to meet any of the criteria for the 2012 Index, and had 25 points deducted for engaging in activities that undermine LGBT equality. After Exxon and Mobil merged in 1999, it did away with domestic partnership benefits and an employment nondiscrimination policy that included sexual orientation. It has repeatedly resisted shareholder efforts to amend the policy to protect gay employees.

Verizon was also penalized 25 points for resisting a shareholder resolution to add gender identity to the company's employment nondiscrimination policy.

American Airlines, Aetna, Apple, Eastman Kodak, JP Morgan Chase, Nike, and Xerox are seven of the nine companies to have received perfect scores every year since the Index began in 2002. Nationally, 190 companies received perfect scores this year, down from 337 last year.

*Hillary Clinton Gives Landmark Speech
about LGBT Rights around the world (p. 4)*

School District Trains Staff to Stop Bullying

- 1. We will not bully others.*
- 2. We will try to help students who are bullied.*
- 3. We will try to include students who are left out.*
- 4. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.*

These four rules are the mainstay of the Olweus Program (pronounced Ol-VEY-us; the E sounds like a long A) anti-bullying program used in the Lincoln County School District, thanks to trainer Majalise Tolan, also the principal at Newport Intermediate and Isaac Newton Magnet Schools. The Olweus program was chosen for the district because it is research-based and with an educational framework and structure. Because Oregon presently has a law requiring a research-based anti-steroid-use program, the state may also mandate a research-based approach for anti-bullying programs.

Tolan says that the school-wide program, which involved the staff in teaching, discussing, and implementing these rules, is succeeding. "Things are getting better because of awareness," she said about the education that her students are receiving. One way that she knows this is through the "Bully Box Form" that can be filled out anonymously and left in a box. She is finding fewer of these forms but hearing about more verbal reports to teachers. As a result, teachers can have a classroom discussion before an official report needs to be sent to the office. The same class discussions can also ferret out false reports.

When Tolan was assigned as the schools' principal, she was the seventh one in three years. "The staff needs stability. Nobody wanted to see kids hurting." Once they were given a way to help these students in anti-bullying education, according to Tolan, they were able to pitch in and help. "We're educating citizens on how to be good people," Tolan said. "Do that consistently, and we'll have a good school culture."

Although Tolan does not see bullying of LGBTQ students as an issue, she is grateful for the help that PFLAG has provided. An evaluation of the students' improvement will be available later this school year. Students completed surveys about bullying in March 2011 and will be surveyed again this spring.

Tolan sees the most "acting-out" among sixth graders, a time of physical change for youth. She also said that this program is perhaps most successful for intermediate grades: the survey requires a reading skill of third grade, and high school students tend not to report. Students who learn to help each other may continue this practice at the high school level because of their earlier anti-bullying education.

Sam Case Elementary School uses the Tribes process in which students have daily community circles when they share ideas, thoughts, and feelings about successes or problems at school. Staff, students, and parents are all expected to abide by four rules: attentive listening; appreciation with no put-downs; mutual respect; and participation/right to pass. Students also work in small groups, called Tribes, to develop such social skills as active listening, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

Olweus describes a bullied person as one who "is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself." Bullies have strong needs for power and negative dominance, find satisfaction in causing injury and suffering to others, and are often rewarded either materially or psychologically for their behavior.

Those who are bullied suffer depression, low self-esteem, health problems, poor grades, and suicidal thoughts. Hopefully the Lincoln County School District can break the pattern of bullying and bullied.

Politics on Our Side

The Evansville (IN) City Council has **added sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's nondiscrimination ordinance** banning discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation.

The West Virginia Board of Education has unanimously voted to **adopt a student behavior policy that explicitly protects LGBT students.**

A three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has **finished hearing arguments that the ruling against same-sex marriage banning Prop 8 in California should be reversed** because the judge was in a same-sex relationship. The *LA Times* indicates the court is unlikely to change the ruling.

The 11th Circuit of Appeals covering conservative states Georgia, Alabama, and Florida has found, in *Glenn v. Brumby*, that **discrimination against a trans employee is sex discrimination.** "An individual cannot be punished because of his or her perceived gender-nonconformity," a judge wrote. This is the third circuit court to make such a finding.

Over 70 major businesses and organizations have filed a legal brief stating their opposition to the anti-gay "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA), which bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages. The major corporations include Microsoft, Starbucks, Google, Nike, and Levi Strauss. The brief states that DOMA needs to be repealed because it puts a major burden on businesses and employees. Recent studies by the Williams Institute and Center for American Progress of both Fortune 500 companies and small businesses show that pro-equality policies are good for a company's bottom line, especially for small businesses.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development hosted **the first-ever federal summit on housing for LGBT elders** in Washington, D.C., on December 7. HUD Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research Raphael Bostic said, "Senior citizens and older adults have challenges already. LGBT seniors have a particular set of challenges that make them unique and more vulnerable." Transgender seniors often face a unique set of challenges as they grow older. Trans people are nearly four times as likely to have a household income of less than \$10,000 a year and therefore less likely to afford market-rate housing. They are also more susceptible to discrimination from doctors and other health care providers.

The day that **Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)** announced his retirement, he **challenged potential Republican presidential candidate to a debate.** "I did not think I had lived a good enough life to be rewarded by Newt Gingrich being the Republican nominee," Frank said. "I look forward to debating, to take one important example, the Defense of Marriage Act [barring same-sex marriage] with Mr. Gingrich." Gingrich has been married three times. "He would be the best thing to happen to Democrats since Barry Goldwater," added Frank.

A year ago, **Marine Gen. James F. Amos** opposed lifting the ban on lesbians and gays serving openly in the military. A year later, he **has admitted that his concern that repeal would undermine the war effort was unfounded.** It was "a non-event," he said.

Politics against LGBT people: Congressional staffers are unprotected from employment discrimination, making it difficult for them to be honest about themselves on the job.

OCC PFLAG Receives PRIDE Foundation Grant

Thanks again to Lisa Bonacci, our ace volunteer grant writer, PFLAG received a grant from the NW Regional PRIDE Foundation to support our work with Lincoln County's GSA groups. The grant will support the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 GSA Mini-Conferences as well as mini-grants to the GSA groups for projects at their schools.

This is a great help to our work with youth and the community. Thanks to Lisa for helping us with another successful grant application—and thanks to PRIDE Foundation!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Studies Welcoming Congregations

Under the leadership of PFLAG member Brent Burford, the Central Coast UU Fellowship has scheduled its four January Sunday meetings to explore the issues of Welcoming Congregations and the LGBT community.

Topics include PFLAG, mental health issues related to bullying, marriage equality and welcoming churches, and the Newport High GSA program.

At the conclusion of this study period CCUUF will determine if they want to join the other six Welcoming Congregations in Lincoln County.

Clinton Gives Landmark Speech

“Being gay is not a Western invention; it is a human reality.” This statement came from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s landmark speech to diplomats assembled in Geneva when she called on world leaders to reject anti-LGBT policies and positioned the U.S. as a global leader on LGBT equality.

Clinton said the idea that LGBT rights are a Western phenomenon ill-suited to other cultures was wrong: “[I]n reality, gay people are born into and belong to every society in the world.”

The White House said this announcement marked the first U.S. government strategy to combat human rights abuses against gays and lesbians abroad. President Obama directed U.S. agencies working abroad, including the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to use foreign aid to assist gays and lesbians who are facing human rights violations and ordered U.S. agencies to protect vulnerable gay and lesbian refugees and asylum seekers.

The order also directs U.S. government agencies to use foreign assistance to protect human rights and advance non-discrimination, and work with international organizations to fight discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Clinton continued, “There is a phrase that people in the United States invoke when urging others to support human rights: ‘Be on the right side of history.’ The story of the United States is the story of a nation that has repeatedly grappled with intolerance and inequality. We fought a brutal civil war over slavery. People from coast to coast joined in campaigns to recognize the rights of women, indigenous peoples, racial minorities, children, people with disabilities, immigrants, workers, and on and on. And the march toward equality and justice has continued. Those who advocate for expanding the circle of human rights were and are on the right side of history, and history honors them. Those who tried to constrict human rights were wrong, and history reflects that as well.

The entire speech is available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/06/hillary-clinton-gay-rights-speech-geneva_n_1132392.html?ref=mostpopular

Also of note is Kate Clinton reaction to Hillary Clinton’s speech: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux_eBCIs4RE

Now we will hope that Obama will be on “the right side of history” in legalizing same-sex marriage.

People Who Make a Difference

Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) on the right and his partner, Marlon Reis, welcomed Caspian Julius, or "CJ," into the world Sept. 30. "It's a great responsibility, and it redoubles my desire to make the world a better place for Caspian to grow up in," said Polis. "He's the next generation. Now it's personal." Although Polis took three weeks off when the baby was born, he flew back to cast a yes vote for three trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. When he's at his Capitol Hill apartment, he and Marlon videoconference with the baby.



Because the Don't Ask, Don't Tell ban on lesbians and gays openly serving in the military has been lifted, Air Force intelligence officer **Ginger Wallace** (left) will accept her Colonel rank decoration, with her partner of 11 years, Kathy Knopf, pinning her new rank on her jacket. Wallace said she's looking forward to acknowledging Knopf during the ceremony because the commitment her partner has made "is just as real as any other spouse."

Kudos to 16-year-old Iowan **Jane Schmidt** who asked Republican presidential candidate Michelle Bachmann, "What would you do to help protect GSAs in high schools and support the LGBT community?" When Bachmann responded that the government should treat all people equally and not give preference to any group based on sexuality, Schmidt asked, "Then why can't same sex couples get married." Bachmann explained, "They can get married, [if] they abide by the



same laws as everyone else. They can marry a man, if they're a woman, and can marry a woman if they're man." Same-sex marriage has been legal in Iowa since 2009.



Also in Iowa, 20-year-old **Zach Wahls** (left), the son of two lesbians, gave a three-minute speech to Iowa legislators last February, asking them not to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and civil unions. The best discussion, however, came at a South Carolina book signing between eight-year-old **Elijah** and Bachmann (above right) when he whispered to her, "My mom is gay and she doesn't need fixing." Elijah's mother was in line to talk to Bachmann but started to leave because she was too nervous. Elijah insisted on going up to talk to Bachmann himself. The *Christian Post* has accused the mother of sending Elijah up to deliver her message; witnesses say differently.

Perry's Ads Rile, Amuse LGBTQ Community

Television advertising for Gov. Rick Perry's criticizing the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell was created over the objections of at least one top staff member, according to sources in the Perry campaign.

Perry's top pollster, Tony Fabrizio, called it "nuts." Several members of Perry's campaign staff have worked to advance LGBT causes inside the GOP.

Liz Mair, a consultant to the Texas governor, serves

on the advisory board of the group GOProud, and Fabrizio has urged lawmakers to reconsider their approach to the culture wars and embrace basic fairness for gay Americans on the issue of marriage. He was considered an ally by pro-gay rights conservatives.

The ads gained even more fame because Perry was wearing a jacket that Heath Ledger, portraying a gay cowboy, wore in *Brokeback Mountain*.

Lesbian Refused Right to Visit Partner in Hospital

Rolling Hills Hospital in Franklin (TN) denied multiple requests by Val Burke to visit her partner of three years, who is currently a patient in the hospital's residential facility. Staff members excluded her from the room since she was not a legal spouse or family member.

Hospital administration, made aware of the incident, supposedly addressed this policy with staff.

Woman Writes to Homophobic Pastor about Biblical Views

One of the joys of writing this newsletter is the contributions I receive from many people. The following letter from a woman to the pastor of her son's church was sent to me by an Arizonan friend.

"Thank you for taking the time to explain your beliefs on homosexuality. You are using Bible passages as law, of course. Of your references I see direct commentary only in 1st Corinthians, Leviticus 18 and 20, and Romans. To be consistent regarding Leviticus (written about 1400 B.C.?) we would live a very different life. We would share the diet of observant Jews, prepare burnt sacrifices, follow directions for emission of semen, for woman's discharge of blood.

"Noticeably absent on the subject of homosexuality is Jesus. He does, however, speak very clearly on the sin of divorce. In one instance he allows adultery, and in a second passage he allows no excuse for this sin. So to be uniform and fair in applying "Bible as law" we would ask church members to return to their original spouses. Half of our churches would be empty. Pulpits, too! No, we don't do this because over the centuries we've learned that human behavior is very complex. In most churches we don't apply the Bible verses condemning divorce.

"But over the centuries we've also learned that homosexuality is present in all cultures, at all times. The explanation is genetic and historical. Does God provide biological diversity among humans as a gift? I've noticed that a disproportionate number of homosexuals provide the art, music, and literature of our western culture. I've wondered if being different gives them an edge on imagination and creativity.

"I view the Bible as an incomparable guide to daily living. It examines every kind of human interaction and leaves us with our God-given minds to ponder the path to a righteous life. We are able to understand and appreciate the evolving nature of human behavior and spirituality.

"Again, I do thank you for your words and respect your thoughts. But please, I pray that you consider that a pick- and -choose application of the Bible may not bring God's children together in love but become the root of hate crime. As a man of God I know that you would not will it."

January 11: PFLAG Meeting

Planning for the coming year will be the program for the January meeting. Included will be No Name-Calling Week in January, Love is Love Valentine Party on Feb. 11, Saturday Market tabling, the April 28 GSA Mini-Conference, and possible summer activities. Come and bring your ideas for how to make 2012 our best PFLAG year yet!

January 23-27: No Name-Calling Week

During the last week of January OCC PFLAG will lead a county-wide observation of No Name-Calling Week. PFLAG members will meet with Lincoln County Commissioners for the NNCW Proclamation and will update them about bully prevention in the county. PFLAGers will also address the LCS D School Board about NNCW at their Jan. 10 meeting. GSA clubs will lead NNCW efforts at LCS D high schools, OCCC, and Angell Job Corps.

Save the Date! Love is Love Valentine Party on Saturday, Feb. 11

The Second Annual Gay & Straight, Young & Old Valentine's Party will again be held at Oregon Coast Community College. PFLAG Moms Kathryn Heater, Susan Huntington, and Claire Smith are chairing the event this year and have plans for an even bigger and better party.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

January 3, 1:00 pm: OCCC Triangle Club films (Information from Tara Roberts (541)270-7085)

January 5, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Newport

January 10: PFLAG presentation about No Name-Calling Week at the LCS D School Board meeting

January 11, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 23-27: No Name-Calling Week

February 2, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Newport

February 7, 1:00 pm: OCCC Triangle Club films (Information from Tara Roberts (541)270-7085)

February 11: Love is Love Valentine Party

February 15, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Activity Night" (call for information (541)994-5597)

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night" (Newport Abbey's Pizza)

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, coastalaidnetwork@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: Jeannette at 867-6993.

We are sad to announce that the news magazine *Just Out* is shutting down. Created by Jay Brown and Renee LaChance in 1983, the publication has served Portland's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and queer community since 1983. Current publisher Marty Davis announced that there are no plans to continue online.

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.

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