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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 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

April 2012

Action Works!

After Starbucks supported the legalization of same-sex marriage in the state of Washington, **the ultra-conservative “National Organization for Marriage” is gathering pledges to boycott the company.** Already over 4,000 NOM members have pledged to boycott Starbucks. Without support from companies like Starbucks, the controversial law might not have passed. Keep the movement toward legalizing same-sex marriage across the country and thank Starbucks for their support: <http://sumofus.org/campaigns/thank-starbucks/?akid=261.161116.XO4STk&rd=1&sub=fwd&t=2>

Pepperdine University administration has refused to grant official club recognition to the proposed gay and lesbian support group Reach OUT, and students are reaching out through petitions to have this decision overturned. Dean of Students Mark Davis defended the university’s refusal by quoting the student handbook: “Engaging in or promoting conduct or lifestyles inconsistent with biblical teaching is not permitted.” Davis said, “Pepperdine seeks to be faithful to this teaching because we believe it is God’s will, and therefore we cannot endorse another view or take a neutral position on sexual morality.” Lindsay Jakows, co-president of Reach OUT and a leader of the petition movement pointed out that Pepperdine holds the affirmation statement, “truth has nothing to fear from investigation.” Support Reach Out at <http://www.change.org/petitions/pepperdine-overturn-your-decision-to-deny-recognition-to-lgbt-students>

Let young people watch *Bully*

Sign the Petition (P. 2)

***Bully* Documentary Should Have PG-13 Rating**

Lee Hirsch's 94-minute documentary on bullying in U.S. schools has received a great deal of publicity prior to its release—all because of the “R” rating that the Motion Picture Association of America, citing language, gave the film *Bully*. This rating brought together a diverse collection of protesters from Meryl Streep and New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees to 17-year-old Katy Butler from Ann Arbor (MI) who has obtained almost 500,000 signatures on her petition asking that the rating be changed to PG-13.

Butler, bullied after she came out as a lesbian in the seventh grade, counts among her supporters such dignitaries as Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Gerry Lopez, head of the AMC Theaters. On her talk show, Ellen DeGeneres said that the PG-13 rating was needed because "it's an important movie for everyone to see. Especially kids."

The movie follows five children from the Midwest and South who were brutalized by classmates over the length of a year and highlights the stories of two young boys who were driven to suicide because of constant bullying.

"The small amount of language in the film that's responsible for the R rating is there because it's real," Hirsch said. "It's what the children who are victims of bullying face on most days. All of our supporters see that, and we're grateful for the support we've received across the board. I know the kids will come, so it's up to the theaters to let them in."

"Over 13 million American youths will be bullied over the course of this year alone, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in our nation," wrote Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA) in a letter signed by several other Congresspersons. "We cannot hope to control this epidemic ... without discussing tough issues publicly and bringing them to the forefront of the consciousness of the American public."

"Strong language (including a brutal, profanity-laden scene ...) earned it an R rating, but none of the swearing is gratuitous," wrote *Common Sense Media*, a watchdog group that helps parents navigate media choices. "Like it or not, it's a realistic portrayal of what every middle schooler and older hears every day. This gives the film veracity and credibility with kids, and it will justifiably shock parents."

NPR's Monkey See blogger Linda Holmes wrote, "The rating is for language—meaning that the reason the (MPAA) is taking the position that (*Bully*) isn't appropriate for kids to see without their parents is not that it depicts violence and trauma and the aftermath of the suicides of children, but because an environment full of teenagers, when realistically portrayed, includes swearing."

Hirsch and the film's distributor, the Weinstein Company, appealed the rating to the Classification and Ratings Administration and lost by one vote. The refusal of MPAA to overturn the “R” rating means that schools will probably not be able to show the documentary to its important audience—the young people.

An example of a film with a PG-13 rating is the big-budget adaptation of Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. The film features teens and young children forced to hunt and kill one another as a form of mass entertainment. Its PG-13 rating was determined because of "intense violent thematic material and disturbing images—all involving teens."

The differences between *Bully's* “R” and *The Hunger Games'* PG-13 represent a double standard. The first film, an educational documentary, shows real kids swearing; the second, purely entertaining, uses sex and violence for titillation. And of course, the second one comes from a large film-making company.

Bully will be distributed with no rating, opening in New York and Los Angeles on March 30, letting MPAA off the hook and possibly keeping the film from wide availability.

Butler's petition: <http://www.change.org/petitions/mpaa-don-t-let-the-bullies-win-give-bully-a-pg-13-instead-of-an-r-rating>

Politics on Our Side

Minnesota's largest school district has agreed to adopt a wide-ranging plan to protect LGBT students from bullying and harassment in a settlement that will resolve an Southern Poverty Law Center lawsuit. The SPLC sued the Anoka-Hennepin district in July on behalf of five students who faced a constant torrent of anti-gay slurs and physical attacks because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. The abuse resulted from the school district's "gag" policy preventing teachers from addressing the homophobic actions.

The New Hampshire House has voted, 211-116, against removing legalized same-sex marriage from the state and mirrors recent polling. This vote, including support from over 100 Republicans, kills the bill that would repeal same-sex marriage.

The Republican-held General Assembly in Pennsylvania has withdrawn a scheduled committee vote on a bill stipulating that the only valid marriage in the state is a union of a man and a woman.

A survey of 1,256 Maine voters shows that 54 percent believe same-sex marriage should be legal. In November Maine will vote, for the second time in three years, on a measure determining whether same-sex couples should be permitted marriage licenses.

President Barack Obama has openly opposed North Carolina's proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage to be determined by popular vote on May 8. "While the president does not weigh in on every single ballot measure in every state, the record is clear that the president has long opposed divisive and discriminatory efforts to deny rights and benefits to same-sex couples," said Cameron French, the

Obama campaign's North Carolina spokesman. Although same-sex marriage is already illegal by statute in North Carolina, lawmakers want to enshrine the ban in the state's constitution. North Carolina is the only southeast state without such a constitutional provision. A majority of North Carolinians (59 percent) are opposed to the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages.

While nay-sayers grope for proof that the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," permitting gays and lesbians to openly serve in the military, is shredding the fabric of the nation, **those actually in the military are becoming more and more positive in their responses about the change.** Last year, the Military Times Poll showed that 59 percent of active-duty respondents did not believe they would be affected by the repeal. Now that the repeal has been in effect for six months, 69 percent of the military members said they had felt no impact. Before the repeal, 10 percent of the respondents said they would be less likely to remain in military housing after DADT repeal but just 2 percent moved. Oddly enough, many gays and lesbians in the military are still not declaring their gender identity despite the repeal of the ban.

LGBT officials are gaining public acceptance across Latin America as attested to by the increase in these people becoming open about their gender identity. This phenomenon may have benefited from activists' successes in winning same-sex marriage rights, adoption, and sharing of financial benefits. Reports from Bogota, Lima, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Caracas, Buenos Aires, Santiago, and Mexico City demonstrate that conservative nations are positively transforming the ways that Latin American nations view and treat the LGBT community.

Donor Provides Money For LGBT Books

Thanks to a generous donation, the Yachats library has purchased LGBTQ items for young readers. The books will be added to the library in April, and others will follow in May.

New LGBT young adult books include *Boy Meets Boy*, *Luna*, *The Geography Club*, and *What If Someone I Know Is Gay: Answers to Questions about What It means to be Gay and Lesbian*.

Two children's books have been ordered: *Uncle Bobby's Wedding* and *Mommy, Mama and Me*.

According to the donor, the library folks have been most welcoming and have plans to continue.

Because the young adult readers are few at this library and most obtain books through Lincoln County schools, the library will buy a few of the older young adult books in time for summer when that readership picks up.

PFLAG OCC Website Updated

Co-Chair Brent Burford has organized PFLAG's DVDs and books so they will be available for loan to PFLAG and GSA members—and those titles and descriptions are now available online at our excellent website.

The website now has current events and activities and the option of donating to PFLAG OCC by Paypal. Check it out: www.occpflag.org

SPLC Adds Hate Groups to List

The Southern Poverty Law Center has added a dozen organizations to its growing inventory of antigay "hate groups," doubling the former number. A sample of rhetoric comes from Linda Harvey radio show for Mission: America: gays "hate Jesus Christ," and employers shouldn't hire LGBT people because they have too high a risk for diseases, domestic violence, and premature death.

The new twelve: Mission: America, Columbus (OH); Parents Action League, Champlin (MN); Jewish Political Action Committee, Brooklyn (NY); Repent or Burn in Hell Ministry, Loxley (AL); Public Advocate of the United States, Falls Church (VA); Save California, Sacramento (CA); True Light Pentecost Church, Spartanburg (SC); Sons of Thunder, Luthersville (GA); Tom Brown Ministries, El Paso (TX); Windsor Hills Baptist Church, Oklahoma City; United Families International, Gilbert (AZ); You Can Run, But You Cannot Hide, Annandale (MN).

More information about these groups is at http://www.advocate.com/Politics/The_Haters_Watch_Out_for_These_11_Groups/ The entire SPLC list: http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/ideology/anti-gay/active_hate_groups

Positive Ways to Communicate LGBT Equal Rights

Connections between the LGBT community and Nazi Germany, satanic influence, apocalyptic predictions, God's judgment, drug abuse, and crime are common in right-wing media. GLAAD's Commentator Accountability Project (CAP) is providing facts for journalists responsible for reporting on the LGBT community.

Their website reports that "(CAP) aims to put critical information about frequent anti-gay interviewees into the hands of newsrooms, editors, hosts and reporters. Journalists or producers who are on deadline often don't have the time to dig into the histories of a commentator."

Love, family, and commitment are other talking points that seem to have more positive impact than equality of rights and benefits. One book that emphasizes this change is Zach Wahls' *My Two Moms*, by the young man who testified in the Iowa legislature who stated, "The sexual orientation of my parents [two lesbians] has had zero effect on the content of my character."

This articulate, engaging well-written work by an author barely past his teenage years is a must read for everyone. The subtitle, *Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family* tells it all.

People Who Make a Difference

Openly gay **Michael Fitzgerald** has been approved by a Senate vote of 91-6 to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. The vote was held up for four months after a unanimous approval by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Republicans voting against Fitzgerald were Roy Blunt (MO), Jim DeMint (SC), James Inhofe (OK), Mike Lee (UT), Rand Paul (KY) and David Vitter (LA). Not voting were Lamar Alexander (TN) and Orrin Hatch (UT) as well as Mark Kirk (IL) recovering from a stroke.



(Photo from the *Washington Blade*.)



Washington's **Sen. Ed Murray**, the gay lawmaker behind the state's new marriage equality law, has succeeded in his 17-year effort. When he took his office in 1995, when the state's Defense of Marriage Act was introduced, Republicans found the debate of Murray's bill so offensive that they ordered all the pages, including Murray's nephew, removed from the House floor. Murray encouraged LGBT advocates to focus on the positive contributions the LGBT community makes to the state, especially in the economy. The business support pushed the marriage equality bill over the top.

Kiah Zabel has refused to back down from her Facebook declaration. Dean of Students at Rochester College (MI) Brian Cole told her that she could not live on campus at the Christian college unless she expunged her page and kept her sexual orientation a secret. But Zabel said she shouldn't be punished for being honest. "Christians are supposed to love others and they love themselves," she said. "Why am I being punished for being who I am?"



In Massachusetts, the reprimand of a **Lynn English High School student** for wearing a t-shirt which read "All the cool girls are lesbians" started a debate during Thursday's School Committee meeting about the school dress code and how it is enforced. The student wrote Mayor and School Committee Chair Judith Flannagan Kennedy that a vice-principal told the students to cover the t-shirt and never wear it again. The student thought she had been wronged; Kennedy agreed. The school dress code prohibits wearing clothing depicting weapons, drugs, or alcohol, or anything considered disruptive, but it does not specify gender issues. The school has a GSA, which indicates a tolerance of such expressions.

Nobel Peace Prize Winner Homophobic

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Nobel peace prize winner and Liberian president, is defending the criminalization of homosexual acts.

There have been no recent Liberian convictions against homosexuality, but anti-gay activists are promoting the amendments of the country's penal code to create more severe prison sentences.

Homophobic attacks in Liberia are also on the rise.

After Hillary Clinton, U.S. secretary of state, announced that the U.S. foreign aid budget would work toward protecting gay rights worldwide, people have speculated about the possibility of tying funds to gay rights records.

Homosexuality is already illegal in 37 African nations.

Marriage Makes Money

Rhode Island would profit by almost \$1.2 million over three years if the state legalized same-sex marriage. One-third would come from new sales tax dollars with the other two-thirds resulting from new income taxes.

Last year Rhode Island lawmakers legalized civil unions for same-sex couples, but marriage legislation for them failed.

Organization Gives Advice about Endorsing Same-Sex Marriage

Third Way, a centrist Democratic group, has provided a new memo to all House and Senate lawmakers' offices giving advice on how to publicly endorse same-sex marriage if they have been opposed to it in the past. The information outlines three rules for a smooth transition in support of marriage equality: share a personal story about the people in your life who have influenced your position, emphasize that marriage is about a commitment instead of rights, and allow that other people's views may be "changing at a slower pace" but that they, too, could come around soon.

The memo also encourages lawmakers to replace the terms "gay marriage" or "same-sex marriage" with "marriage for gay couples" or "allowing gay couples to marry." This practice reinforces the similarity in marriage for both homosexual and heterosexual couples.

The memo warns against using parallels between same-sex marriage and the civil rights movement and the fight for interracial marriage. "This direct comparison can hurt more than it helps, by causing people to think about the differences between the experiences of African Americans and LGBT people, not the similarities," according to the memo from Third Way.

'Smithsonian' LGBT Museum/Archive Gains Frank's Gavel

One large collection representing LGBT history just got a bit bigger with the loan of Rep. Barney Frank's gavel that hammered the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on gays and lesbians openly serving in the military. With 25,000 books and videos, the Stonewall National Museum & Archives in Fort Lauderdale has the largest circulating library of LGBT literature and periodicals. Labeling itself as "the LGBT community's Smithsonian," the museum keeps pieces of gay southern Florida alive with artifacts from the Marlin Beach Hotel. In 1973, Mark Silber, a 19-year-old student at Florida Atlantic University, began collecting gay books and magazines, and the collection just grew. Now the Center, supported each year with \$230,000 provided through donations, corporate sponsors, and cultural grants, has one full-time and one part-time employee.

Snowbirds and local residents annually donate about 200 new and used books, and other donated goods include 30 boxes of music videos that played at the former Cathode Ray bar on Las Olas Boulevard. Museum consultant John Coppola said, "Stonewall is filling the niche left by older gay bookstores closing." About 15,000 people visited the facility last year for its programs, events and content.

**April 11 PFLAG Meeting:
LCSD's Bully Prevention Program**

Majalise Tolan, principal of Newport Intermediate and Isaac Newton Middle Schools, will join us to share the excellent progress these schools have made in reducing bullying and improving the school cultures. Teachers, staff, parents, and kids are all excited by the results of this first year with the Olweus Bully Prevention Program. Tolan will present the good news to parents on April 12 at 6 pm at her school during Art Night.

April 13: Day of Silence

The annual Day of Silence will be observed in LCSD schools on April 13. Participating students will not speak during the entire school day to focus attention on the lives of silence endured by LGBT people who must hide their sexual orientation or gender identity to maintain their safety. Jordan Ostrum, Newport High GSA President, will share plans for planned DOS activities.

April 19: Nike Youth Forum

Beaverton's Nike Campus will host LGBT teens from across Oregon at their annual forum on April 19, 2012. The Nike Youth Forum, a collaboration between Nike and GLSEN Oregon, is an event aimed at helping GSA leadership create positive change in their schools. The Forum will feature local LGBT leaders, who will talk about their roles as change agents in their organizations. Around 30 Gay Straight Alliances will be invited, and we expect around 400 youth and advisors. GSA leaders and their advisors will be asked to take an active roll in the day. Two of the guest speakers will be Bruce Jenner and "Red Rubber Ball" author Kevin Carroll. PFLAG OCC is assisting local GSA groups with travel expenses for the full-day conference.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

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

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

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

April 13: Annual Day of Silence

April 19: Nike Youth Forum, Beaverton

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

May 3, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—
LCHHS, Newport

May 9, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hur-
bert, 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](mailto: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.

LGBTAlliesEugene is an email list for announce-
ments of information, events, and news of interest
to LGBTIQ people and our allies in the Eugene/
Springfield Oregon area. We invite you to help
make this list useful to its members by sharing
events and news of general interest. This is a mod-
erated list and is not intended for discussion. To
subscribe, go to
[http://lgbtallieseugene.org/mailman/listinfo/anno
unce_lgbtallieseugene.org](http://lgbtallieseugene.org/mailman/listinfo/announce_lgbtallieseugene.org)

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

_____ Individual or Household (\$30)
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*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

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