Take Action

A relatively new website with petitions, FaithfulAmerica.org, gives the opportunity to sign petitions that object to religious persecution of Q people. Use the following link for protest petitions: https://act.faithfulamerica.org

HarperCollins calling James Dobson its "ministry partner";

Expelling students at Indianapolis Catholic Roncalli High School for supporting two fired guidance counselors who married their same-gender partners;

Franklin Graham’s attack on state laws that require Q-curriculum in the public schools;

Labor Department's announcement that government contractors can use “religious liberty” to fire Q employees: https://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/DOL_LGBT/?t=1&referring_akid=2323.190700.XrhLPz

Wisconsin’s Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School firing a teacher for making a pro-Q Facebook post: https://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/Immaculate-Heart-School/?t=1&referring_akid=2312.190700.KZHxNr

Q people are leaving Equinox Fitness Clubs and Soul-Cycle spin studies after they learned that its owner, billionaire Stephen Ross, held a $250,000 fundraiser per person for Donald Trump. Ross is now concealing the names of his other companies.

Lauren Jackson, a trans woman living in her car, was assaulted at Agate Beach State Park in Newport. She is now at OHSU having facial reconstruction after a man broke her jaw for using the women’s restroom. More on p. 4. Contributions can be made at this site:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/37y67t-laurens-recovery
Study Shows Genetics, Environmental Influences

No one gene determines sexual orientation, according to a new study using DNA, but both genetics and environment shape sexuality. In an analysis of DNA from thousands of people, a handful of genes clearly connected with same-sex sexual behavior don’t necessarily predict whether a person is Q. Andrea Ganna, lead author and European Molecular Biology Laboratory group leader at the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Finland, said the research reinforces the understanding that same-sex sexual behavior is “a natural part of our diversity as a species.” Experts maintain that the study, published in the journal Science, provides one of the clearest pictures of genes and sexuality, partly because of the large number of participants.

Of the five genetic variants statistically associated with same-sex sexual behaviors, none in itself could predict same-sex behaviors. One was found in genes related to the sense of smell, and another in male pattern baldness. Variants were correlated with same-sex sexual behavior in either men, women, or both. Eric Vilain, director of the Center for Genetic Medicine Research at Children’s National Health System, said the study ends “the simplistic concept of the ‘gay gene.’ ”

Previous studies have found genetic relationships with sexual orientation and same-sex behaviors. Research reveals patterns with multiple men in the same family identifying as gay and correlation between left-handedness and same-sex attraction. Having older brothers increases the odds that younger brothers will be gay which may be caused by changes to the mother’s immune system in response to the earlier pregnancies.

A region of the human genome called xq28 linked to male homosexuality in 1993 caused the controversial notion of a “gay gene.” That research finding was not replicated.

Over 450 species other than humans have shown homosexual behavior, and penguins have many same-gender couples. A recent pair to become parents, Skipper and Ping, are at the Berlin Zoo where zookeepers saw them trying to hatch stones. He gave the couple an egg from a female penguin who had been unable to hatch her eggs for almost 20 years.

Another gay couple, gentoo penguins Sphen and Magic, hatched an egg last year at Sydney’s Sea Life Aquarium. Of the 14 penguin pairs at Ireland’s Oceanworld Aquarium Dingle, two are lesbian and two are gay.

During Pride month, the London Zoo flew a banner celebrating its six gay Humboldt penguin couples, including Ronnie and Reggie who raised their hatchling, Kyton, until he left the nest. Ferrari and Pringle had a grand marriage on an English estate. Video: https://www.instagram.com/p/Bt1D_IaDpb4/
Politics on Our Side


California: Modesto refused to issue a permit for a “Straight Pride Parade” because of its racist position, but a dozen straight people tried to hold the event. Opposed by 200 protesters, the morning rally was cut short because the owners of the facility didn’t know the purpose was a hate rally. The events’ organizer had admitted in a city council meeting that he is a racist; the website claims an “inherent superiority” to whiteness, heterosexuality, Christianity, and Western culture.

The Boston straight-pride parade on August 26 brought 100-200 participants with far more counterprotesters and rainbow signs on businesses along the route. One of the straight supporters ranted about Jews faking the holocaust, ruling the world, and creating the LGBT movement to destroy America.

Idaho: The 9th Circuit Court ruled that prisons must provide gender affirmation health care to a transgender inmate because the Eighth Amendment bans cruel and unusual punishment. Adree Edmo sued the state for gender affirmation surgery in 2017. She won the case, but the state appealed. The same court had previously ruled that prisons must provide medical care for inmates. The state may appeal the case to the Supreme Court; Edmo, whose sentence ends in 2021, is not eligible for parole.

Kentucky: The state is required to pay $225,000 because Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis refused to issue marriage licenses to same-gender couples, according to a ruling from the 6th Circuit Court that upholds a lower court decision. The money is for legal fees and court costs incurred by eight people who sued because of Davis’ refusal. The circuit court left the door open for another couple to sue Davis personally because she lacks sovereign immunity as an individual.

Illinois: A new law, signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker, requires schools to include Q history in curricula.

North Carolina: Gov. Roy Cooper signed an order banning the state from funding “ex-gay” therapy, in the first Southern state to take this action.

Utah: The state Supreme Court ruled that a gay couple can use surrogacy to have a child. A judge in a lower court had determined that the law mandating all parties must petition the court for their agreement did not apply to same-gender couples because the court must find medical evidence showing that the intended mother could not have a child. The case had no adversaries—just the judge. He denied the petition because the male couple lacked an “intended mother.” Although the Supreme Court also refused a neutral-reading of the law, it confirmed the surrogacy because of the constitutional right of same-gender couples to the “constellation of benefits” tied to marriage permitted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Wisconsin: A federal judge ruled that the state’s Medicaid program must cover gender affirmation health care because it’s an accepted treatment for gender dysphoria. He also ruled that refusing to cover gender affirming health care was sex discrimination under the Affordable Care Act. Medicaid is partly funded with federal money. Wisconsin is one of nine states to specifically exclude coverage for transgender care in its Medicaid program. Individual health care started covering transition expenses for state employees after former Gov. Scott Walker was voted out of office. He had told the state board to reverse the decision to cover this health care.
A man from Blackfoot (ID) is being held on $140,000 bail after his arrest for beating up Lauren Jackson, a homeless transgender woman, in the Agate Beach State Park in Newport (OR). The man’s wife had complained about being “harassed” in a restroom by Jackson, who was washing her hands. He held Jackson by the hair and punched her in the face over ten times.

Medical professionals at OHSU said Jackson will need reconstructive surgery because of multiple jaw and skull fractures. The man was charged with “assault in the second degree, menacing, disorderly conduct in the second degree and harassment,” and an upcoming hearing will determine whether he will be charged with a hate crime.

According to the media, a Newport Police Department report shows that “Costanza is unemployed, a multi-state offender and was previously arrested for failure to appear in another case. He was also drunk at the time of his arrest.”

https://www.gofundme.com/f/37y67t-laurens-recovery

More Politics on Our Side

United States: Two former employees, one gay and one straight, settled an antigay discrimination case with Mejia Corp., DBA El Tio Tex-Mex Grill restaurant, after non-stop harassment. They divided the settlement equally, and the restaurant is required to stop “engaging in or condoning sex-based harassment of any employee.” The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission had determined that the men had standing to sue for discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. Recent court cases have determined that discrimination based on sexual orientation is covered under the prohibition on “sex” discrimination.

United States: A federal judge ended a four-year legal battle between transgender Gavin Grimm and the Gloucester County School Board when she ruled that the school guidelines on bathroom use violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution and Title IX. The law forbids organizations receiving federal funds from discriminating against people on the basis of sex. The ruling also required that the school update Grimm’s transcript with his identity as male within ten days. The Supreme Court had sent a lower court’s favorable ruling to an appeals court for reconsideration. Unfortunately, the ruling is restricted to eastern Virginia until other courts rule in favor of transgender students.
The UK has followed cities like Vancouver, Sydney, and San Francisco with its first permanent rainbow crossing. Intended to “show solidarity with the LGBTQ community,” Lambeth encourages people to share photos on social media with the hashtags #WeAreLambeth and #WalkTheRainbow.

Canada has released a large version of the loonie—a $1 coin—with a Q design on the back that shows two faces and two years, 1969 and 2019. Fifty years ago, the nation’s parliament “initiated the decriminalization of homosexuality.” The maple leaf in the design has the words “Equality” and “Egalité.” Some Q advocates expressed concern about the implication that equality had been achieved in Canada, citing HIV disclosure laws, gay blood ban, and policing of queer people of color and transgender people. Other concerns included the increases of charges for consensual queer sex after 1969 despite an exception to Canada’s anti-sodomy laws, many of them still on the books. Finance Minister Bill Morneau said that “we should all recognize, that ... we have much more to do.”

A Q-friendly church in Dallas covered the words “United Methodist” with a rainbow flag after church leadership reaffirmed its opposition to marriage equality and punishment for any churches violating its ban on same-gender marriages and Q clergy. The Dallas church tweeted, “A church that legislates exclusion and homophobia is a church that has left us.”

The ACLU of West Virginia is suing the Harrison County School Board after it refused to take action for the abuse of trans student, Michael Critchfield. Vice Principal Lee Livengood was reinstated at Liberty High School (Clarksburg, WV) after telling trans student Critchfield to expose himself in front of Livengood by using the urinal. Livengood blocked the entrance to the boys’ restroom and yelled at Critchfield for four minutes. Later he told Critchfield, “You freak me out.” Critchfield had permission to use the boys’ restroom. Livengood’s mandatory letter of apology covered only “yelling.” The school failed to take promised steps to rectify the situation such as starting a GSA, not assigning Livengood to monitor any activities Critchfield participated in, and developing a policy including not outing trans teens.
People Who Make a Difference

Holley Gerelds has received an apology after Springville High School (AL) refused to put her senior class photograph into the yearbook because she wore a tux for the picture instead of a black drape. The photographer agreed with her request. She said that she wore masculine clothing to the prom, church, and everywhere else and felt humiliated with the black velvet V-neck drape. Her misspelled name was listed as “Not Pictured” in the yearbook. The school said that it would make things right by reprinting a yearbook page to show all students “regardless of their choice of attire” and correct the misspelled name.

Lil Nas X became the first out gay man to be nominated for a Country Music Award when his song “Old Town Road,” featuring country legend Billy Ray Cyrus, was nominated for Musical Event of the Year. His song also won Song of the Year at the Video Music Awards. When he became the first out musician to win that award, the musician, known for his memes, got a laugh when he took out a long scroll that he claimed was his speech. “Old Town Road” stayed #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 for 19 weeks, the only song to last that long since the chart started in 1958. The country/hip-hop crossover was eliminated from Billboard’s Country charts for not being country enough.

Tutanekai Smith-Coffey, the one-month-old son of MP Tamati Coffey (left) and his husband, Tim Smith, helped preside over the New Zealand Parliament when Coffey ended paternity leave by taking the baby to the legislative body for a visit. Smith is the birth father of Tutanekai, born on July 10, via a surrogate. Parliament speaker Trevor Ballard (above right) cradled and bottle-fed the baby while leading the proceedings.
Salem Moves Library

A gay man no longer goes inside the Salem (OR) Public Library after it approved a two-year lease of almost $500,000 to be housed in the homophobic Salem Alliance Church building. The library will operate out of that facility until it completes seismic retrofitting on the existing library building.

The decision was made despite opposition from the Salem Human Rights Commission and 200 people signing a petition. The action raises a question: When the city conducts public business in a religious space, is it shutting out people the church shuns?

More Media

Netflix is adding a story piece about transgender people to its sequel to the 90’s cartoon Rocko’s Modern Life: Static Cling. When Rocky and his two friends return to Earth, Ralph is now Rachel.

Media Matters:

Aquaman came out on Young Justice: Outsiders when he kissed Wynnde (right) from the underwater kingdom of Atlantis.

The upcoming Birds of Prey film following the 2016 film Suicide Squad has two “gay coded” villains named Black Mask and Victor Zsasz, bisexual villain Harley Quinn, and lesbian police detective named Renee Montoya. The women are the first explicitly out Q superheroes in a mainstream motion picture.

Tessa Thompson will play Marvel’s first explicitly Q character in the upcoming film Thor: Love and Thunder. As Valkyrie, she searches for a queen to rule at her side in New Asgard.

The CW TV network will pilot a Batwoman superhero drama series, the first TV pilot led by an openly lesbian comic book superhero. Openly gender-fluid and lesbian Ruby Rose (left), who played a lesbian inmate in Orange Is the New Black, has the lead role. She first appeared as Batwoman in CW’s three-episode Arrowverse crossover event, “Elseworlds.”

OCC PFLAG Calendar

September 10, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBT & Allies Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Pacific Café, Olive St. north of PAC

September 11, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—Introduction of New Leaders Lisa Norton & Tracy Cummings (Chair & Secretary/Treasurer); Survey Results; Coming Year’s Plans & Programs —St. Stephen’s, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

September 13, 5:00-7:00 pm: Trans Support Group—Toledo Public Library, 173 NW 7th Street

September 22, 11:00 am: OUT OR Women at Nana’s for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

September 25, 6:00-7:30 pm: Trans Support Group—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

September 25, 6:00 pm: Coastal Queers & Peers Game Night and Socializing—Café Mundo, Newport

The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provide emergency or urgent relief to LGBT+ people in Lincoln County. Individuals of any age who identify as LGBT+ (or their caregivers) and who demonstrate a financial need for medical aid, housing, transportation, or food can apply. The maximum grant is $250. Much of the Grant’s resources come from other LGBT+ people and straight allies. Contact PFLAG OCC at pflagocc@gmail.com for an application.
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