



HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 56 March-April 2003

Legislative Updates — Please thank and support the sponsors of the bills below, talk to others about them and do all you can to help them pass. We hope to have a lobby day to work on them. We will announce it in the newsletter if there is time, and in the chapter's email alert list.

Bill Introduced to Include Gender Expression or Identity in Washington's Malicious Harassment Law

by Gabi Clayton

Under the current Washington state law, RCW 9A.36.080, a person is guilty of malicious harassment in Washington state (a class C felony) if he or she maliciously and intentionally commits certain acts outlined in the RCW because of his or her perception of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, or sensory handicap. Sexual orientation was defined as "heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality".

HB 1938 was introduced and read for the first time on February 17, 2003 and has been referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections. This bill will amend RCW 9A.36.080 to include gender expression or identity by changing the definition to: "heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, and gender expression or identity."

This is particularly timely for PFLAG because on September 27, 2002 the National Board of Directors of PFLAG passed a policy on inclusion in legislation:

Motion: That PFLAG can only support legislation that provides explicit inclusion of all who are included in our mission statement and ENDS.

Transgender persons have been included in our mission statement since 1998, and they need the protection of this law just as much as our gay, lesbian, and bisexual family members do. Sometimes they are more targeted in hate crimes because they can be more visible. With this new policy PFLAG has now taken a strong stand because it recognizes that we cannot leave any members of our family behind.

State Representative sponsors, with their legislative district in parenthesis after their names:

Ed Murray (43rd), Joe McDermott (34th), Eileen Cody (34th), Dave Upthegrove (33rd), Sandra Romero (22nd), Jeannie Darneille (27th), Jim Moeller (49th), Sharon Tomiko Santos (37th), Sam Hunt (22nd), Jeanne Edwards (1st), Deb Wallace (17th), Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (46th).

For more information including the entire wording of the bill and updates, see the Summary Page for House Bill 1938 on the Legislature's website:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/billinfo/dspBillSummary.cfm?billnumber=1938>

Legislation Introduced to Legalize Same-Gender Civil Unions

by Gabi Clayton

Representatives Ed Murray and Joe McDonald introduced HB 1939, a bill authorizing civil unions on February 17, 2003 and it has been referred to the Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Law.

If passed, a "Civil union" will mean that two persons have established a legal

(Continued on page 3)



▽ SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2-4:30 PM

Super Support

Super Support has become a popular alternative to bringing in guests to present a program. Instead of listening passively to a presentation (no matter how interesting it might be), Super Support allows our members to interact in discussions around topics of vital concern to many of the members. Super Support is an extension of the breakout discussion groups we normally have, but involving the entire membership. We have tried it two times before, and will do it again by popular demand during the March meeting.

▽ SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2-4:30 PM

Transgender issues

Discussions at the April meeting will center around how PFLAG can best support and include transgender people and their loved ones.

State Conference coming in September

Mark your calendars. The state PFLAG conference hosted by the Bellevue chapter will be held Sept. 6 at Bellevue Community College. The keynote speaker will be Robert N. Minor, Ph.D., author of *Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human*.

For more information, go to: <http://www.pflagwashingtonstate.org/stateconference.htm>

"But You're so feminine"

by Sandy Enlow

Recently a family member said to me, "You can't be a lesbian, you're so feminine." I had to laugh. Her image of what a lesbian is didn't fit me. A year or two ago this would have sent me into a tailspin and I would have worried that I needed to change something about myself.

As a young girl, my Mom would put curlers in my hair before bedtime. I hated this routine and would cry as each curler was wound tightly into place. My Dad would tell me to "stop crying and sit still". I would lie awake all night the bobby pins poking my scalp. On the outside, the appearance of a young girl with her hair in curls and wearing a dress was the image my Mom wanted others to see. It didn't matter if I liked it or how it was achieved.

My world when I was growing up was all about appearance. If asked, "How are you doing?" You were to answer; "I'm fine". Our family business was never to go outside of the family. To the outside world we were to appear as the Norman Rockwell paintings. Appearance was everything.

As a teenager, I was told "if I just wore make-up, dyed my hair blonde, and wore a dress I would be so pretty. I tried hard to emulate the image of the girls around me. However upon sporting my new look; the blonde hair that hung in large curls on the side of my face (I just could not get that feathering thing right, Farrah Fawcett killed me), mascara that fell more under my eyes than on my eyelashes and walking with heels that made my ankles wobble. I got teased unmercifully. It wasn't just that I could learn to be "one of them", it was just simply that I wasn't "one of them". I hated how makeup felt on my face, I hate dyed blond hair and for the life of me I couldn't understand why women liked those blasted heels. I put away those things I hated deciding I would settle for not being pretty.

As a married woman, I fit the image of the Stepford wife. I knew what I was to do I had observed the women around me for years. I knew my role well. I cooked, cleaned, took care of the kids & home. During party or holiday functions I served grown men their plates of food or cups of coffee. Around the table, I listened, as the men talked. Women's opinions didn't matter, and if an opinion was voiced we were just ignored or talked over. Men drove, sat at the head of the table, and were congratulated as fathers if they showed the least bit of parenting.

I was a robot. It did not matter I was unhappy as long as I kept up the appearance of a happy wife. The image of what others saw was a good wife, yet inside I was screaming to get out.

When coming out as a lesbian I once again was faced with image and appearance. I was told country music was not lesbian so I hid my country CDs from view. I was told feminine things and decorating during holidays was "straight". I was told sitting in the stands at a high school soccer game was part of the "straight world."

Four years later, I've learned that the image of a lesbian is me. It has nothing to do with femininity, hairstyle, decorating or shopping at Home Depot. It has to do with loving a woman emotionally, spiritually and physically. There are no other criteria. I am a lesbian who loves all genres of music, including country. I am a lesbian who loves decorating & entertaining. I am a lesbian who loves watching my daughter at high school games. I am just me. I am no longer plagued with trying to fit what other people think I should want or should represent, the image of a lesbian and woman is me.

Captain Smartypants Benefit for Capital City Pride Saturday, March 15



They are a musical offshoot of the Seattle Men's Chorus designed to "make you laugh while creating exquisite harmony." They have performed their oddball musical comedy routines since 2000, often doing so with icons like Rosemary Clooney and Nell Carter to contemporary favorites like Lea Delaria and Megan Mullally (of *Will & Grace*).

They have received rave reviews in Seattle newspapers and outkitsap.org billed them as "part improv-comedy troupe, part capella showcase, part musical theater extravaganza, these eight boys sing and dance like the illegitimate lovechild of 'N Sync and Monty Python's Flying Circus." This octet makes its way to Olympia for the Rainbow Center Olympia Fundraiser March 15 at the Capital Playhouse. Most of their performances are sold-out shows, and even a recent gathering at Benaroya Hall in Seattle found standing room only. For tickets call (360) 943-2744.

Tacoma Gay/Bisexual Fathers Support Group Launched

The new Tacoma Gay/Bisexual Fathers Support Group began twice-monthly meetings in February. The group will meet every other Wednesday starting February 5, 2003, at Group Health Medical Tacoma, Conference Room 4, 209 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, in Tacoma. For more information contact the group by email to info@gfas.org; writing to Tacoma Gay/Bisexual Fathers Support Group, c/o Gay Fathers Association of Seattle, PMB 1270, 1122 East Pike Street, Seattle, WA 981212-3934; or calling the GFAS hotline at (206) 324-4359.

UCAN's DINE OUT FOR LIFE Thursday, March 13

Dine Out for Life is an innovative fundraiser. Eat out at any participating restaurant and 25 percent of your bill goes to benefit UCAN and the Pierce County AIDS Foundation. For a list of restaurants, go to www.ucan-wa.org or contact UCAN at (360) 352-2375.

(Legislative Update, continued from page 1)

relationship. Parties to a civil union would have to satisfy the following criteria in order to establish a civil union:

- (a) Neither party may be a party to another civil union or a marriage;
- (b) The parties to the civil union must be of the same sex and therefore excluded from the marriage laws of this state;
- (c) The parties may not be nearer of kin to each other than second cousins, whether of the whole or half blood;
- (d) Both parties must be eighteen years of age or older; and
- (e) Both parties must be capable of consenting to the civil union.

A couple in a civil union would have all the same benefits, protections, obligations, and responsibilities under law as are granted to spouses in a marriage. The law of domestic relations, including community property, separation and dissolution, child custody and support, property division, and maintenance apply to parties to a civil union.

Sponsoring: Representatives:

Ed Murray (43rd), Joe McDermott (34th), Eileen Cody (34th), Dave Upthegrove (33rd), Sandra Romero (22nd), Jeannie Darneille (27th), Jim Moeller (49th), Sharon Tomiko Santos (37th), Laura Ruderman (45th), Sam Hunt (22nd), Jeanne Edwards (1st), Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney (46th), Mary Lou Dickerson (36th).

For more information including the entire wording of the bill and updates see the Legislature website's Summary Page for House Bill 1939 at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/billinfo/dspBillSummary.cfm?billnumber=1939>



MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month in The Gathering Place parlor of First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, at Boundary Street, Olympia. It is handicap-accessible.

DIRECTIONS: From Sylvester Park on Capitol Way and Legion Way, go 12 blocks east on Legion Way to Boundary Street. Turn left around the church. Park in side lot at 5th Avenue and Boundary, and enter upper front door. Meeting place is across the lobby.

Letters, articles and requests for literature are welcome.

Mailing address:

PFLAG Olympia; PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

For information or to discuss personal matters with an understanding parent and experienced PFLAG member, CALL the PFLAG Olympia

HELPLINE: (360) 866-0511

E-mail: info@pflag-olympia.org

Website: <http://pflag-olympia.org/>

Fairness Lobby Announces the Introduction of the Civil Rights Bill HB 1809

From: Fairness Lobby

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2003 9:16 PM

Fairness Lobby,

We are thrilled to announce that House Bill 1809 extending civil rights protections to Washington's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender communities has been officially proposed. HB 1809 was introduced by Representative Ed Murray this week with statewide bipartisan support. At this writing the following sponsors are on the bill:

Representative Ed Murray (D), Representative Fred Jarrett (R), Representative Joe McDermott (D), Representative Rodney Tom (R), Representative Dave Upthegrove (D), Representative Shirley Hankins (R), Representative Jim Moeller (D), Representative Bill Hinkle (R), Representative Lynn Kessler (D), Representative Bill Grant (D), Representative Dave Quall (D), Representative Dave Mastin (R), Representative John Lovick (D)

We are expecting a hearing to be scheduled for some time in late February and will be sending out another action alert soon to notify you of the date and time. We are asking that if you live in one of the sponsoring legislator's districts that you call and thank them for their support of HB 1809. You can also call your legislator if they are not on this list and encourage their support.

You can reach your legislator by visiting our website at www.fairnesslobby.org, by calling the Legislative Hotline in Olympia at 1.800.562.6000 or visiting the House of Representatives homepage at www.leg.wa.gov/house/default.htm

We have also put a link for you to read the bill as it has been proposed. You will also notice that with this link there have been more legislators that have signed on in support. To view the bill go to: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2003-04/House/1800-1824/1809.pdf>

We will keep you up to date on the status of this bill and look forward to celebrating it's success during this legislative session.

Greg Rodriguez
Field Organizer
Fairness Lobby of Washington
greg@fairnesslobby.org
www.fairnesslobby.org

You have been sent this as a subscriber of the Fairness Lobby E-mail Alert. If you wish to be added or removed please e-mail board@fairnesslobby.org

On Saturday 2/22/03 Fairness Lobby sent an email that the hearing for this bill before the House Committee on State Government would be on Tuesday, February 25th which will be after this is mailed. However, if you want to submit written testimony to committee members via e-mail, their names and e-mail addresses are available at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/opr/SG/members.htm>

Buy PFLAG-Olympia Gear

printed with the "Been Out Lately" graphic from the billboard campaign

- t-shirts
- sweat shirts
- coffee mugs
- mouse pads
- BBQ aprons
- tile coasters
- canvas tote bags
- boxer shorts



Buy yours now on the web

http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag_oly

Let them know where
the money comes from -
- and support PFLAG!

You can order beautiful PFLAG checks in rainbow colors, checkbook covers and return address labels from Message!Products in Minnesota. 10% of your purchase comes back to PFLAG National.

To see the items and order on-line, go to <http://www.messageproducts.com/> And click on "Social Organizations."

Or order by phone:
1-800-243-2565.

"Service to others is the rent you pay
for your room here on earth." Muhammad Ali

NEW or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Low Income \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active (attend when I can) or | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (seldom attend) |

Membership \$ _____

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift \$ _____

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ _____

I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* (which is mailed in an envelope with no identified return address).

I want the national quarterly *PFLAGpole* newspaper (which is not mailed in an envelope).

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____

Signed _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

PFLAG is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
not affiliated with any political or religious institution.

The PFLAG Mission

To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through:

- ▼ support, to cope with an adverse society;
- ▼ education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and
- ▼ advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

HeartBeat is a free publication of the PFLAG chapter in Olympia, Washington, published six times a year. The editors are Alec & Gabi Clayton.

Unsolicited articles are welcome and are due by the 15th of even-numbered months. The editors reserve the right to reject or edit material.

The deadline for the next issue is 4/15/2003

Mail submissions to:

HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org