



# HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 61 Jan.-Feb. 2004

## It's the law

### GLBT Issues before the legislature

By David Walddon

By the time you read this newsletter the Washington State Legislature will be convening for another year. And there are sure to be some issues that the PFLAG constituency should keep in the front of their minds as we go into another year of budget cutting.

When we had Rep. Hunt and Rep. Romero in to speak with us they suggested four bills we should watch in the upcoming session. Below are some of the details on these bills and some ways you can stay involved in the process.

The main page of the Washington State Legislator can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov> On this site you will find information that will inform you on the process of the legislature in Washington State.

**Civil Rights:** House Bill 1809 - This bill would amend RCW 49.60.010 and 1997 c 271 s 1, the Civil Rights Act, to "Includes sexual orientation in prohibited discriminatory acts." And "Declares that 'sexual orientation' means heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, and gender expression or identity." Last year this bill passed the house with a vote of 59 yea and 39 nay. The roll call can be found at [http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2003-04/House/1800-1824/1809\\_rollcall.txt](http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2003-04/House/1800-1824/1809_rollcall.txt)

Check it out to see how your representative voted on this very important matter. It was then sent on to the Senate where it was referred to the Judiciary committee. It did not make it out of the Senate committee last year.

**Civil Unions:** House Bill 1939 - This legislation would allow same sex couples to enter into a civil union because they are "excluded from the marriage laws of this state." As defined in the bill, Civil Unions "means that two eligible persons have established a legal relationship pursuant to this chapter, and may receive the benefits and protections and be subject to the obligations and responsibilities of spouses." The bill would also allow "a civil union between two persons that is recognized as valid in another jurisdiction is valid in this state." The language that is most significant in the bill is in section 4: "Parties to a civil union have all the same benefits, protections, obligations, and responsibilities under law, whether they derive from statute, administrative or court rule, policy, common law, or any other source of civil law, as are granted

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▼ SUNDAY, JAN. 11, 2-4:30 PM

### Marc Adams from Heartstrong

Marc Adams is the founder and executive director of HeartStrong, Inc., a nonprofit with a mission to providing support to GLBT students from religious schools and colleges and educating the public about the crisis GLBT persons face in these schools. <http://www.heartstrong.org> Adams is also the author of six books including his award winning autobiography, "The Preacher's Son," chronicling his early life in a fundamentalist household and his experiences at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. The program will include clips from an upcoming documentary about HeartStrong and Q & A with Marc.

▼ SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 2-4:30 PM

### Queer Eye for the media

Let's take some time for a critical look at gays in the media. What does the increasing popularity of gay-themed shows on television mean to the glbt community? Do depictions of gays on shows like "Will and Grace" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" create greater acceptance or just foster stereotypes? We plan to show some clips from TV shows and discuss these issues at our February meeting.

## Buy PFLAG-Olympia Gear

with the "Been Out Lately" graphic from our 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 at

[http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag\\_oly](http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag_oly)

### PFLAG-Olympia meeting format

2:00-2:30 p.m.	Introductions
2:30-2:40 p.m.	Announcements
2:40-3:15 p.m.	Support
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Social time/snacks
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Program (see above)



# PFLAG

Olympia, Washington

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

**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.

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*Letters, articles and requests for literature are welcome.*

Mailing address:  
**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***

Email: [info@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:info@pflag-olympia.org)  
Website: <http://www.pflag-olympia.org>

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to spouses in a marriage." It also allows those who enter into a civil union to "use of the terms 'spouse,' 'family,' 'immediate family,' 'dependent,' 'next of kin' and other terms that denote the spousal relationship, as those terms are used throughout the law." This bill was referred to the Juvenile Justice and Family Law Committee. It did not get a hearing.

**Gender Expression:** House Bill 1938 - This bill "Includes gender expression or identity in the definition of 'sexual orientation' for the purposes of malicious harassment protection." The bill was referred to the Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee and did not receive a hearing.

**Parental Rights:** House Bill 1563 - This bill "authorizes a non-parent to initiate a court proceeding for contact with a child" when the applicant "is an individual with a parent-like relationship with the child." The bill defines Parent-like relationship as "a very significant relationship between a non-parent and a child in which the non-parent undertook responsibilities and tasks commonly performed by parents and commonly recognized as actions by someone in a parent-like relationship. Excluded from this category are baby-sitters or other paid caregivers". Last year this bill passed the house with a ye a vote of 91 and 0 nays (7 Representatives were excused) and was sent on to the Senate where it was referred to the Children & Family Services & Corrections committee. It did not make it out of the Senate committee last year.

These and other bills can be tracked at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>

You can impact legislation in Washington State. Call or write your legislators or visit them if you are close enough. Attend town meetings, especially in districts that might not be as friendly to the PFLAG mission. Watch the legislative website for movement on these important bills. It really never hurts to write or call a committee member when this bill is referred to committee. Sign up for the Olympia-PFLAG alert (contact Alec Clayton for access) for updates during session (and throughout the year). Support your legislators when they support us. Send them a letter of support or leave them a voice mail.

Throughout the legislative session always remember the old saying "The making of laws and sausages is not a pretty sight."

## 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  |

New     Renewal

Active (attend when I can) or     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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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 2/15/2004**

Mail submissions to:  
**HeartBeat**  
**P.O. Box 12732**  
**Olympia, WA 98508-2732**

Or email to: [newsletter@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:newsletter@pflag-olympia.org)