

March
2006



From the President's Desk — *Stan Pflueger*

Advocacy is an area of action that our local chapter of PFLAG is always interested in pursuing. This year promises to present many opportunities to speak with local, state and federal lawmakers and policy makers about issues that are important to GLBT individuals and their families and friends. While it is important that everyone use their voice and tell their story, "straight" family members (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, cousins and anyone else in the family) have an exceptionally strong influence with policy makers. Frequently, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered indi-

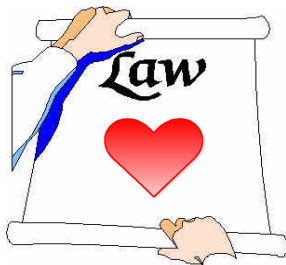
viduals who speak out for equal opportunity in the areas of marriage and civil rights are wrongly discounted because they advocate for changes that directly impact their lives. But, when family members and straight allies speak out on behalf of their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered friends and family members, their motivations are considered more objective and not dismissed so quickly. So, the next time you read about a legislator supporting a law or policy that hurts members of our community, take time to share your story.

Know the Law, Love the Law — *Mark Stevens*

According to a recent article found on the web (<http://www.nuvo.net/archive> search for 'Sex in the Statehouse') and written by Laura McPhee for Indy's Nuvo magazine, there are no fewer than ten ways that Indiana lawmakers have consigned their constituency to jail, hell or both for their sexual behavior.

According to this article there are ten sexual behaviors that are deemed illegal in Indiana. I warn you that some of the wording of the article is a bit bawdy, but it certainly lightens the tone of an otherwise serious and thought-provoking commentary.

This was written shortly after Valentine's Day and is a lighthearted piece in the form of a pseudo-quiz with a big message for Hoosiers: Know the law so that you know how you are breaking it! The list of offenses includes a whole host of snooty and invasive regulations.



The ten questions on this pseudo-quiz are:

1. Are you a pervert?
2. Are you sporting a stiffy?
3. Are you having sex out of wedlock?
4. Are you "living in sin"?
5. Are you thinking of becoming an "unwed mother" (or father)?
6. Are you considering marriage?
7. Are you considering a divorce?
8. Are you a woman considering an abortion?
9. Are you a teacher?

10. Are you gay?

It amazed me to think that so much of our common law is written solely from the moral beliefs of one religious group. But, arguments about the religious standing of our forefathers aside, most Americans believe that our country's laws are second only to the Word of God in moral rectitude despite awareness that our lawmakers are often... less than godly.

One important point was brought to the forefront of my mind when I was reading this article. Anyone who believes that the only fight against prejudice in the law is in the form of the Marriage Act, SJR-7, or whatever names it takes federally as well as on the state level, is horribly uninformed.

Luckily for us there are people who watch the lawmakers and write such delightful pieces as this one to help us to get informed of the full scope of the issues. I strongly recommend reading this piece, bookmarking it, and forwarding it to any Indiana voters you know as an introduction to the need to get involved in our states lawmaking process.

Or, as Laura McPhee puts it, "*It's our votes or lack of votes that keep them [the lawmakers] in office and keep them in our bedrooms. But if all us sinners went to the voting booth in November the law might actually support, encourage and prefer for consenting adults to keep their private parts and private lives private and out of the Indiana General Assembly.*"

A Family Event: White House Egg Roll April 17, 2006

Join hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families as they register for this event. It's time to claim our place at the table.

With your help, on April 17th 2006, our nation will see hundreds of LGBT families filling the White House lawn, rolling Easter eggs side by side with our fellow citizens. There is no more powerful way to change the national discussion around our families and our rights than to introduce ourselves to our neighbors on a grand scale. We would love for you to join us in making history, having fun and showing off our amazing families to the country!

The National Park Service will distribute free tickets on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 7:30am on Saturday, April 15, 2006. A maximum of five tickets will be issued per person. Children of all ages can attend but there must be at least one child seven years old or younger and no more than two adults per group. Ticket holders are admitted to the South Lawn of the White House between 8am and 2pm on April 17. Groups of about 250-500 ticket holders are admitted at 15-minute intervals. We need to be in line by Friday evening to be the first ones on the White House lawn so we can maximize our impact.

We have been asked if this is a protest? No, this is a celebration of our families. We want to give our fellow citizens the opportunity to see us as real families, participating in a great American tradition on the White House lawn, rather than protesting from the sidelines.

In order to get tickets, one adult needs to stand in line beginning on Friday evening at around 8pm. Tickets will be distributed early Saturday morning. Each adult can get up to five tickets, so only one family member needs to wait in line.

If it's raining on the morning of the event, the National Park Service makes a determination about whether to close the event. In the last three years, despite rain, the first hour of the event has always been held. Our goal is to be in the first four contingents that are admitted to the White House Lawn.

We are working with the local DC LGBT parenting community to find volunteers to provide housing. If you will need housing, please let us know at the time you register.

Once we're on the lawn, many ask, how will they know that we're an LGBT family? Family Pride will be hosting a pre-Easter Egg Roll gathering on Monday morning where we will give out T-shirts to everyone participating. The T-shirts will have a non-political message about our families but will clearly identify us as LGBT parents and families. This is important because the White House Easter Egg Roll always has TV media and photographers on hand.

We believe if the Administration learns of this action too early, they could close the event to the public making it an invitation only event. There is a slim chance that on the day of the event the White House could prohibit our families from participating. In that event, we will gather together as a group as close to the media as possible to share our story. We are a family organization and under no circumstance will we intentionally put our families at risk.

If you think this is a great idea and you want to be a part of it, please sign-up.

Even if you're not sure yet, we need you to sign up now so we can plan and organize effectively. If you sign up, we will continue to send you developing information about the event. If you can't make the egg roll but still want to help, sign-up today to volunteer. We need volunteers on Friday night, Monday morning before the egg roll, Monday during the egg roll and Monday after the egg roll.

Co-Sponsoring Organizations for this event include:

Metropolitan Community Church - PFLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) - Soulforce - COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) - National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) - Love Makes a Family - BLGT Office of the Unitarian Universalists - Lavender Playhouse - Integrity - Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (Quaker) - Gay and Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach - Queer Asian Pacific Alliance - National Black Justice Coalition - Equality Virginia - Equality Maryland - Equality Illinois - Equality Maine - Kentucky Fairness Alliance - Garden State Equality - MEGA Family Project - Association of Latino Men for Action - Wyoming Equality - Equality North Carolina - Triangle Foundation - and many local LGBT parenting groups and organizations.



Earlham College hosts 'Sexuality Out of Place' Conference

Earlham College | March 31 & April 1,
2006



The keynote speakers at the Earlham College Conference are Christina Sharpe and David M. Halperin.

The 2006 "Sexuality Out of Place" conference is focused on examining the relationship of space, place, and geography with sexuality; it is interested in exploring the different ways the location of identity plays out when sexuality, sexual difference, and geography are taken seriously. In keeping with the over-arching theme of "Globalization" promoted by Earlham College (and the topic of its 2006 Faculty Retreat), this conference will welcome graduate work-historical and contemporary-focused on discourses, narratives, and practices of sexuality understood through the prism of place and space:

- * Why do place and geography matter?
- * What does it mean to examine both diasporic and queer identities?
- * How can we theorize and understand such cultural locations?

- * What is the relation between "experience" and location and its meaning for identity?
- * What might the consideration of these issues mean for a contemporary politics of sex?
- * What kind of queer cultural readings emerge?

This conference encourages approaches that interrogate Western and colonial conceptions of sexuality and the division between Western and non-Western practices.

Interdisciplinary work is one of the principles of Earlham College and the motif for this conference, and proposals from all fields (philosophy, literature, history, sociology, anthropology, etc.) engaging with issues in such a way will be given special consideration.

Topics of particular interest include:

- * Post-Colonial visions of sexuality
- * The relationship of race, gender, and sexuality
- * Transnational and migratory sexualities
- * Urban (sub)cultures
- * Tourism
- * Sexual economies
- * "Queer Globalization"
- * Visual culture and representation

For more information about this conference go to <http://www.earlham.edu/~sexconf/> on the World Wide Web.



This Is Your Invitation!

This month's meeting of the Indiana Equality Region 3 local committee and city social will be held on Tuesday March 21, 2006 from 7 pm until 9 pm at Hall's Gas House on Superior St. in Fort Wayne. We are working on getting Win Moses to attend. We will be meeting in the banquet room. IE executive leadership from Indianapolis will also be attending. This is a great opportunity to get involved if you haven't already. If you want to know more, this is also a great opportunity to become educated, and enjoy dinner among friends.

For more information call (260)433-1916 or email rob@grayless.com





Events in Gay History

Upcoming Events:

March 13 — Fort Wayne PFLAG Meeting

March 21—Indiana Equal Region 3 Meeting

April 11 — Fort Wayne PFLAG Meeting

PFLAG of Fort Wayne

PO Box 5086

Fort Wayne, IN 46805-5086

(260) 497-8528

PflagFtWayne@aol.com

<http://members.aol.com/pflagfw/>

We meet the second Monday of each month 7:00 pm at
Plymouth Congregational Church
501 W. Berry Street
(corner of Fairfield and Berry)
For more information
call 260-497-8528 or
e-mail PflagFtWayne@aol.com

The PFLAG Mission

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

March 11, 1778 - Lt. Gotthold Enslin is the first U.S. soldier to be dismissed for homosexuality.

March 11, 1975 - In Madison, Wisconsin the state legislature passes a bill granting civil rights protection to gays and lesbians.

March 24, 1971 - A federal judge ignores the U.S. Immigration rules and grants citizenship to a gay man from Cuba.

March 24, 1987 - ACT UP stages its first major demonstration. Seventeen protestors are arrested.

March 26, 1975 - A county clerk in Boulder, Colorado issues a marriage license to two gay men shortly after the local district attorney's office ruled that there were no county laws preventing two people of the same sex from marrying.

March 26, 1985 - The U.S. Supreme Court overturns (via a tie vote) an Oklahoma law that would have banned homosexuals (or those who "promote the lifestyle") from teaching in the state's public schools.

April 1, 1972 - Delaware decriminalizes private consensual adult homosexual acts.

April 1, 1976 - South Dakota decriminalizes private consensual adult homosexual acts.

April 1, 1978 - A new Canadian Immigration Act goes into effect, which removes the prohibition against gays and lesbians from entering the country.

April 1, 1981 - *Ebony* magazine poses the question, "Is Homosexuality a Threat to the Black Family?" (The article concludes that it is not.)

April 1, 1985 - The first classes are held at the Harvey Milk School for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, a New York city-funded institution.

April 1, 2001 - Four gay and lesbian couples are married in the Amsterdam City Hall shortly after midnight when a new law recognizing gay and lesbian marriage takes effect. Holland becomes the first country in the world to legalize gay marriage.

April 5, 1895 - Playwright Oscar Wilde lost his criminal libel case against the Marquess of Queensberry, who'd accused the writer of being gay.

April 8, 1974 - The American Psychiatric Association remove its "sickness" definition of homosexuality.

April 8, 1990 - Ryan White dies of AIDS after a five-year battle with the disease.

April 13, 1975 - In Montreal the first issue of the English-language news journal, *Gay Times*, is published. It ceased publication in early 1976, after 8 issues.

April 14, 1968 - *The Boys in the Band* opens in New York.

April 25th, 1978 - St. Paul, Minnesota votes to repeal its four-year old gay-rights ordinance by a margin of 2-1.