



INDY PFLAG NEWS

JUNE 2005

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., June 12th from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's Methodist Church in the Youth Wing (North door), just west of Meridian on 86th St.

JUNE 12 MEETING

Our June PFLAG meeting will include a one-man play from Indianapolis based actor/director Jeffrey Barnes, who brings a message of hope and healing to gay Christians with his new play, *Remember Who Made You*. Jeffrey has combined his theatrical background with his faith to create a dynamic new play that deals with the hard-hitting issues surrounding homosexuality and Christianity. *Remember Who Made You* is a one-man play that he has developed to help fill the void between the gay and Christian communities. In 1996 Jeffrey began working with a social issues theatre company, The A.C.T. OUT Ensemble. While touring the country with "A.C.T. OUT" he began to see the power that theatre has to deeply affect people and change lives. Since then Jeffrey realized that God was calling on him to use his talents for ministry.

Remember Who Made You uses humor and drama to give the perspectives of its four characters. Each character has a unique insight that allows the audience to find something to which they can relate. Jeffrey holds a BS in theatre from the University of Indianapolis, and has studied acting at H.B. Studios in New York City. He also holds an associate degree in theology from Indiana Bible College.

Psychiatrists May Push for Gay Marriage OK

ATLANTA (AP) -- Representatives of the nation's top psychiatric group approved a statement Sunday urging legal recognition of gay marriage. If approved by the association's directors in July, the measure would make the American Psychiatric Association the first major medical group to take such a stance. The statement supports same-sex marriage "in the interest of maintaining and promoting mental health." It follows a similar measure by the American Psychological Association last year, little more than three decades after that group removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

The psychiatric association's statement, approved by voice vote on the first day of its weeklong annual meeting in Atlanta, cites the "positive influence of a stable, adult partnership on the health of all family members."

The resolution recognizes "that gay men and lesbians are full human beings who should be afforded the same human and civil rights," said Margery Sved, a Raleigh, N.C., psychiatrist and member of the assembly's committee on gay and lesbian issues. The document clarifies that the association is addressing same-sex civil marriage, not religious marriages. It takes no position on any religion's views on marriage.

IN Pride 2005 Offers Weekend of Events June 10-12

Live OUT Loud - A Celebration of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride
Pride Seminar - Friday, June 10

The weekend events will begin on Friday evening, June 10 at 7:00 p.m. with a Pride Seminar - Honest Talk About HIV by Paul Lekakis, international recording artist and actor.

Parade & Festival - Saturday, June 11

The weekend events continue on Saturday morning with the third annual GLBT Pride Parade. The Parade will once again begin at the corner of College and Massachusetts Avenue and will continue down Massachusetts Avenue to Vermont Street. The parade will turn west onto Vermont Street and end at the Pride Festival at University Park. Parade assembly starts at 9:00 a.m. Parade step off will be at 10:00 a.m.

Immediately following the parade, the IN Pride 2005 Festival will be held in University Park. The Festival will feature a food court, non-profit community organizations, merchant vendors, and two live entertainment stages. Headliners for the main stage include Kristine W, Thea Austin and Paul Lekakis. The

Festival will run from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Picnic & T-Dance - Sunday, June 12

The IN Pride 2005 Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 12 beginning at 12:00 noon at Shelter #2 at Garfield Park. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be served. Volleyball and "drag" games will be held. The picnic is free but donations to help defray costs will be requested.

IN Pride 2005 events will conclude with the 2nd annual Back Alley T-Dance on the patio and back alley behind Metro Nightclub & Restaurant (707 Mass Avenue). Wayne Sheppard will spin the music. The T-Dance starts at 4:00 p.m.

Cover charge is \$5.00.

Funds raised from Pride Events support Indy Pride Scholarships for GLBT youth in the State of Indiana; the Gregory Powers Direct Emergency Financial Assistance (DEFA) Fund; and Indiana Youth Group (IYG).

**PLEASE JOIN OTHER INDY PFLAG
MEMBERS AND MARCH IN THE PARADE!
LOOK FOR THE PFLAG BANNER AND
WALK WITH PRIDE!!!**

Indy PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a group of people who share common experiences and provide support for each other. We listen and love. We help families have open, positive and loving relationships with gay children and we work for their civil and human rights.

The "Sniff Test" predicts sexual orientation, study says

By Randolph E. Schmid, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The sexual area of a gay man's brain works a lot like that of a woman when exposed to a particular stimulus, researchers say.

In an experiment, men and heterosexual women sniffed a chemical from the male hormone testosterone. The homosexual men's brains responded differently from those of heterosexual males, and in a similar way to the women's brains. "It is one more piece of evidence ... that is showing that sexual orientation is not all learned," said Sandra Witelson, an expert on brain anatomy and sexual orientation at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. Witelson, who was not part of the research team, said the findings clearly show a biological involvement in sexual orientation.

The study, published in Tuesday's issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, was done by researchers at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. They exposed heterosexual men and women and homosexual men to chemicals derived from male and female sex hormones. These chemicals are thought to be pheromones — molecules known to trigger responses such as defense and sex in many animals. Whether humans respond to pheromones has been debated, although in 2000 American researchers reported finding a gene that they believe directs a human pheromone receptor in the nose.

The brains of different groups responded similarly to ordinary odors such as lavender, but differed in their response to the chemicals thought to be pheromones, lead researcher Ivanka Savic said. The Swedish researchers divided 36 subjects into three groups: heterosexual men, heterosexual women and homosexual men. They studied the brain response to sniffing the chemicals, using PET scans. All the subjects were healthy, unmedicated, right-handed and HIV-negative.

When they sniffed scents like cedar or lavender, all of the subjects' brains reacted only in the olfactory region that handles smells. But when confronted by a chemical from testosterone, the male hormone, portions of the brains active in sexual activity were activated in straight women and in gay men, but not in straight men, the researchers found. The response in gay men and straight women was concentrated in the hypothalamus.

The only way we'll have real pride is when we demand recognition of a culture that isn't just sexual.

It's all there — all through history we've been there; but we have to claim it, and identify who was in it, and articulate what's in our minds and hearts and all our creative contributions to this earth. And until we do that, and until we organise ourselves block by neighborhood by city by state into a united visible community that fights back, we're doomed.

Larry Kramer, from the play, The Normal Heart (1985)

Dear Abby won't be bullied by those who refuse to accept sound scientific research about homosexuality.

DEAR ABBY: In a recent column you advised the mother of a girl who had confided that she is gay and wants to come out, that homosexuality has "nothing to do with parenting and everything to do with genetics." You need to retract that statement. If you do not publicly admit your error, I will know you are a mouthpiece for the gay and lesbian crowd. --

LEONARD IN LYNCHBURG

DEAR LEONARD: If I did not believe with all my heart that what I wrote is true, I wouldn't have put my thoughts on paper. Homosexuality is simply a variant of sexual orientation. Those who claim it is "unnatural" should direct their attention to Dr. Joan Roughgarden, a biologist at Stanford University with a Ph.D. from Harvard, who states that more than 300 vertebrate species have been found to practice homosexuality. (A visit to any zoo might confirm it.) And while one gene may not be responsible for this variant, Italian researcher Andrea Camperio-Ciani of the University of Padua notes that research findings point to there being more than one "gay gene," and that the genetic factors linked to homosexuality in men are also linked to increased fertility in women.

I stand by my reply.

Library Moves Kids Books on Gay Families From Children's Section

365Gay.com (Tulsa, Oklahoma) Two days after Oklahoma lawmakers passed a resolution telling publicly funded libraries that books written for children about gay families should be placed in Adults Only sections, Tulsa libraries have moved the books from "impressionable eyes". Oklahoma libraries do not have special Adults Only sections so, the Tulsa libraries have created a special section called the "Parenting Collection".

The decision is an about face for the Tulsa City-County Library system.

Immediately after Tuesday's vote in the House, Tulsa City-County Library CEO Linda Saferite told a local TV station that the library planned to continue shelving children's books with gay themes in the children's section.

"The library represents all points of view," Saferite said Tuesday. "And, the parent decides when it is appropriate for them to share books with their children." But, on Thursday, after pressure from some local politicians Saferite announced the library had changed its mind. "It is a balancing act," Saferite said. "And, the recent chain of events caused us to question if there was a better way to house these materials."

The furor over gay-themed books arose when an Oklahoma City mother became upset when her child brought home "King and King", a children's fairy tale book about a prince who falls in love with another prince.

To talk with a parent who also has a gay son or lesbian daughter & to learn more about Indy PFLAG, please contact:

***Sarah (317) 545-7034**

***Char/Oran (317) 897-0126**

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