

Greater Cincinnati

# GLBT News UPDATE

Serving the Cincinnati LGBT Community since 1996

## Cut DOJ funds to pay for House DOMA defense

U.S. House Speaker John Boehner (*Republican from Butler County*) on



Monday called for redirection of funds from the Justice Department to Congress to pay for defense of the Defense of Marriage Act in court as he made public his decision to hire a U.S. solicitor general from the Bush administration to defend the anti-Gay statute.

In a letter dated April 18 to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (*D-Calif.*), Boehner calls for cutting funds from the Justice Department to provide money to the House general counsel to pay for congressional costs to defend in court DOMA, the 1996 anti-Gay law that prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriage.

## Vogue 4U Gay Expo Fashion Weekend

All are invited to participate in the Vogue 4UGay Expo/Fashion Weekend Benefiting Stop AIDS!

The initial idea was to create a weekend event around Gay interests in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky to help Gay owned businesses work together. Organizers also wanted it to be a fun weekend with many events that the entire community (*Gay or straight*) could attend.

They created the idea of Vogue 4U Gay Expo/Fashion Weekend. This event is a benefit for Stop AIDS Cincinnati and incorporates many of the Gay owned businesses and interests around Cincinnati. The aim is to generate funds for Stop AIDS Cincinnati as well as enlightening Cincinnati residents to all of the wonderful Gay owned businesses in town. This will be a fun weekend full of fashion shows, performances, models, clothes,

art and more. The hope is to make this an annual event that grows from year to year helping Cincinnati grow into a more diverse and cultural city.

Sponsors for the event include: 4U Fashion Boutique, Roxy's Lounge, Stop AIDS Cincinnati, Leather 77 at The Serpent, Sebastian Rey Skin Awareness, Absolut Vodka, Rufskin Denim, New Dimensions Talent Agency and Todd Sanfield Collection.

### Vogue 4U Fashion Show and After Party!

#### Friday, April 29th

11p.m. - 2 a.m.: Roxy's Lounge, 909 Vine St.

11p.m. - Vogue 4U Fashion Show

12 a.m. - After Party Featuring DJ Doug Strong and Roxy's Go-Go Boys  
2 a.m. - Roxy's Restaurant Opens For Late Night Dining

### Vogue 4U Gay Expo Fashion Shopping Extravaganza!

#### Saturday April 30th

11a.m. - 9 p.m.: 4U

Fashion Boutique, 16 E. 12th St.

11 a.m. - Let the Shopping Begin

1 p.m. - Yoga Demonstration

3 p.m. - Skin Care Demonstration

5 p.m. - Underwear Show

6 p.m. - Drag Show

7 p.m. - Leather/Fetish Peep Show

8 p.m. - Fire Dancing Show

\*Get your wristband and free raffle ticket at 4U Fashion Boutique for Roxy's After Party -

Vogue 4U Stop Aids All Star Review with Special Surprise Guest and DJ Doug Strong From 10 p.m.- 3 a.m.

Late Night Dining 2 a.m. - 4 a.m.

### Vogue 4U Tea Party/ Brunch!

#### Sunday May 1st

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Roxy's Lounge 909 Vine St.

▲ Local Area Businesses & Vendors

▲ Drag Show Brunch

▲ Bloody Mary Bar & Champagne Cocktails

▲ Raffles & Prizes

# Volunteer at Your GLBT Center

Tuesdays with Toby Martino

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## Supportive environment linked to lower suicide risk among Gay youth

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) teens are much less likely to attempt suicide when they live in a supportive environment, according to new research.

The findings, published online in the journal *Pediatrics*, showed that Gay teens that lived in counties with a high proportion of Gay and Lesbian couples or went to schools with support groups were less likely to attempt suicide than LGB teens living in less accepting environments.

Researchers analyzed data from three years of

health surveys given to teens in Oregon, with about five percent that identified themselves as being Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual. Of those students, almost 22 out of every hundred said they had attempted suicide in the past year, compared to about four of every hundred for those who identified as straight.

Those LGB teens who lived in counties that scored poorly on measures of social environment were about 20 percent more likely to have attempted suicide than teens from high-scoring social environments. Mental Health Social Worker

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This is GLBT News UPDATE

**GayBarMaps.com**

## Day of Silence gives "voice" to bullied teens

Fifteen-year-old Brandon Jackson took a brief vow of silence to call attention to others' obnoxious loud mouths.

The Lewis Palmer High School sophomore is Gay, and while he says he doesn't fear for his physical safety at school, he and other Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students in Colorado still confront name-

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See *Silence*, Page 3, Col. 1

**Silence**—from Page 2  
calling, bullying and harassment.

“We want to illustrate the silencing effects that homophobia has not just on Gay teens but on all those who are perceived to be part of the LGBT community,” said Jackson, who recruited a number of his friends to join him in the national Day of Silence.

Students in Carroll County’s **Liberty High School’s Allies Club** and others who participated in last week’s National Day of Silence can be proud of their efforts to bring awareness to the problem of bullying and for standing up for their fellow students.

On Friday, about 70 students remained silent for the entire day as a way to show support for the unheard voices of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students.

While the students said they received an overwhelming amount of support from their classmates, they also saw their share of hatred.

Name-calling, rudeness and general disrespect were among the things that the students got from some of their fellow students. The bad behavior isn’t limited to Liberty. Schools across the county for years have been trying to heighten awareness about the problems associated with bullying.

Sexual orientation is just one flashpoint. A person’s religion, their nationality, even the clothes they wear or the people who they hang out with serve as targets for potential bullies.

The students who participated can take away a lot of positives from their experience though. First, they spent the day showing support for others. Second, many of their classmates also took the time to stand up for them and show their support.

Bringing together people in this manner is something that ultimately will help the entire school population. Even those who spent the day bullying the participants served a purpose by showing that there is still much work to do before everyone in society is treated equally.

**Students in Saline** are working to end harassment and bullying experienced by LGBT students throughout the nation.

The students took part in the Day of Silence April 15, bringing attention to bullying and harassment experienced by LGBT students. Every year, students participate by remaining silent throughout the day or by doing other activities that bring about awareness.

Students from the school’s Spectrum group participated in the event.

See *Silence*, Page 4, Col. 1

**Cori Yaeger, PhD**  
**Psychologist, LPCC-S**

- Individual, couples, families
- LGBTQA-friendly, kink-aware
- Communication, codependence, recovery, grief

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**Silence**—from Page 3

The group's president, Emma Upham, emphasized events such as the Day of Silence is not about the group trying to "push forward a Gay agenda."

"It's about treating people with respect and trying to make school and life safer for LGBT persons," she said.

The Saline City Council recently showed its support for the day, proclaiming April 15 as a Day of Silence. According to the resolution, a national school climate survey found that more than nine out of 10 LGBT students reported verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school. In addition, approximately 30 percent of LGBT students

report missing at least a day of school in the last month out of fear for their own personal safety.

In an interview prior to April 15, Upham said she planned to remain silent for the entire day and carry a Day of Silence speaking card that explains why she is not talking. She also planned to wear all black.

Upham said the students decide if and how they want to participate. Some may decide to participate in a class because it's easier than remaining silent.

"Most of the teachers are cool with it," she said. "Only a handful are not."

In 1996, students at the **University of Virginia** organized the first Day of Silence in response to a class assignment on non-violent protests. In 1997, organizers took their effort nationally and nearly 100 colleges and universities participated.

In 2001, the **Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education**

**Network** became the official organizational sponsor for the event.

**As a teenager**, Tim O'Malley recalled lying in bed crying, struggling to come to terms with his sexuality. "I distinctly remember saying to myself, 'I'd rather be dead than gay,'" O'Malley, now director of housing at the Art Institute of Indianapolis, told members of ISU's Advocates for Equality.

O'Malley spoke at Advocates for Equality's annual Breaking the Silence event in Dede Plaza. The ceremony wrapped up the Day of Silence during which ISU students and other supporters stood in the plaza with their mouths covered, holding signs conveying statistics about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered animosity and memorializing hate crime victims.

**Megan Baker** was just a sophomore at Oregon's

Pendleton High School when one of her male friends — a Gay teen — committed suicide.

His death was an eye-opening experience for the president of the Gay-Straight Alliance, a club at PHS dedicated to promoting tolerance and equality among all genders, sexualities and races.

It is one of the reasons Baker, now a senior, had tears in her eyes after more than a hundred students let out a cathartic scream Friday afternoon at the end of the national Day of Silence. It was the fourth year PHS held a Day of Silence.

To combat bullying which led to a rash of 10 suicides in September across the country — thousands of students nationwide chose to remain silent during school Friday.

Most students who participated at PHS did manage to keep quiet until the final bell rang at 2:45.

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News UPDATE*




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**GLBT News**

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