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Greater Cincinnati

GLBT News UPDATE

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Notes from:

Equality Cincinnati

1. Equality Cincinnati (EC) just released its COURAGE Scholarship. \$1,000 will go to a LGBTQ youth or young adult pursuing or in higher education. Please see their website for the application and criteria.
2. EC convened the LGBTQ Youth Violence/

In April Print Edition:

- STOP AIDS looks forward.
- Scott Knox: Ohio Department of Health broke its olwn rules.
- GLBT leaders meet.
- John Maddux: Revisionist history again.
- Newsome named to National GLSEN Advisory Committee.
- Ron Hirth: "Get to the game".
- GLSEN Prom and MORE.

Harassment Prevention Task Force on March 22. EC, HRC, GLSEN, YWCA, Council on Child Abuse and CenterPoint are all working together to address collaboration in preventing harassment/violence against our LGBTQ youth or youth perceived to be LGBTQ. They are currently reviewing two possibilities for initiatives:

- a. Challenge Day for youth to examine their biases/stereotypes and increase understanding, respect, and support for differences.
- b. Assets Based Score cards for Schools to measure their effectiveness in addressing harassment/violence and level of welcoming and inclusive practices with

linkages to community resources.
3. EC is celebrating five Domestic Partner Registry Anniversaries of EC members in MARCH and

seven Domestic Partner Registry Anniversaries of EC members in APRIL. Congrats to all of the DPR couples and may your love continue to bloom!

Civil Unions/Marriage

Yes to same sex relationships

Dover Delaware -- A Senate civil unions bill that would recognize "solemnized" same-sex relationships with the same legal protections and requirements as marriage -- was voted out of the state Senate Administrative Services Committee after a two-hour hearing Wednesday.

The bill -- S.B. 30 -- sponsored by Sen. David Sokola, D-Newark North, with more than two dozen co-sponsors, now goes to the Senate floor for debate.

Committee members heard impassioned testimony from opponents and supporters of the bill, one reading from the Bible, another reading a letter from his son, all saying the state would be significantly changed for the better or the worse. The balcony was packed and so was much of the floor of the Senate chamber.

News Tribune

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Civil Unions/Marriage

Indiana State Senate, no to Gay marriage

A divisive issue in Indiana is garnering attention again after a proposed amendment to ban same-sex marriage took another step forward this week.

On Tuesday, the state Senate voted 40-10 on the ban, which would also affect civil unions and any arrangements "substantially similar" to marriage. The House voted a month ago, approving the ban 70-26.

Representatives of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and questioning/queer community at Ball State expressed their disappointment about Tuesday's vote. Kyle Stepler, vice president of Spectrum, said a passing of the ban could make many members of the GLBTQ community rethink their future in Indiana, bringing difficulties to the economy.

BSU Daily News

Recognizing out of state marriages

Freshman Rep. Laurie Jinkins of Tacoma, Washington on Wednesday saw

her second bill pass out of the state Legislature, and, it was an important one for Gay and Lesbian couples, she said.

It would recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states as domestic partnerships in Washington, and she said it reflects that

This is
GLBT News
UPDATE

public opinion is becoming more accepting of diverse families.

Jinkins, the first openly Lesbian representative to serve in the Legislature, said the bill further affirms a 2009 statewide ballot measure that gave domestic partners many of the same rights and responsibilities as married

See **Marriage**,
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Marriage—from Page 2

couples.

“I think the Legislature is a real representation of the public on this issue,” she said. “I think it’s tracking right along with the public, and I think in both places it has really picked up steam.”

House Bill 1649 passed out of the Senate in a 28-19 vote. It already passed the House and now goes to the governor. **News Tribune**

85 nations—yes to Gay Rights

In what LGBT advocates described as “a stunning development for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” 85 nations signed a pro-Gay statement that was read out by Colombia’s representative at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on March 22.

The statement “express(es) concern at continued evidence in every region of acts of violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity” and “call(s) on states to take steps to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Susan Rice, the U.S.

ambassador to the United Nations, called the statement “historic.”

“As the United States continues our important work in the Human Rights Council this week, we are proud to recognize a historic statement, signed by a record 85 nations, reaffirming the rights of all people – regardless of who they are and whom they love,” Rice said in a statement.

LGBT and human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, and Human Rights Watch, hailed the action.

“Today’s statement enjoyed the support of the largest group of countries to date on the topic of sexual orientation, gender identity and human rights,” said the advocacy groups in a joint media release. “It builds on a similar statement delivered by Norway at the Human Rights Council in 2006 (*on behalf of 54 states*) and a joint statement delivered by Argentina at the General Assembly in 2008 (*on behalf of 66 states*). It is clear that every time these issues are addressed there is measurable increase in state support.”

Nigeria’s representative spoke against the statement, purportedly on behalf of the council’s Africa

Group. The representative said the terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” are undefined, talked about God and said it takes a man and a woman to make a baby. At the end, however, he said laws that criminalize sexual orientation should be expunged.

Pakistan also spoke against the statement on

behalf of an official bloc of 57 majority-Muslim nations. Russia opposed the statement, as well, saying it rejects discrimination and violence against LGBT people but should be allowed to limit rights for reasons of public morality. The representative reportedly said that “these people” should not be granted “special rights.”

Cori Yaeger, PhD
Psychologist, LPCC-S

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