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PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families, and their friends through

SUPPORT to cope with an adverse society

EDUCATION to enlighten an ill-informed public

ADVOCACY to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

Q is an inclusive term for the sexual minority LGBTQ+ spectrum.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

October 2019

Take Action

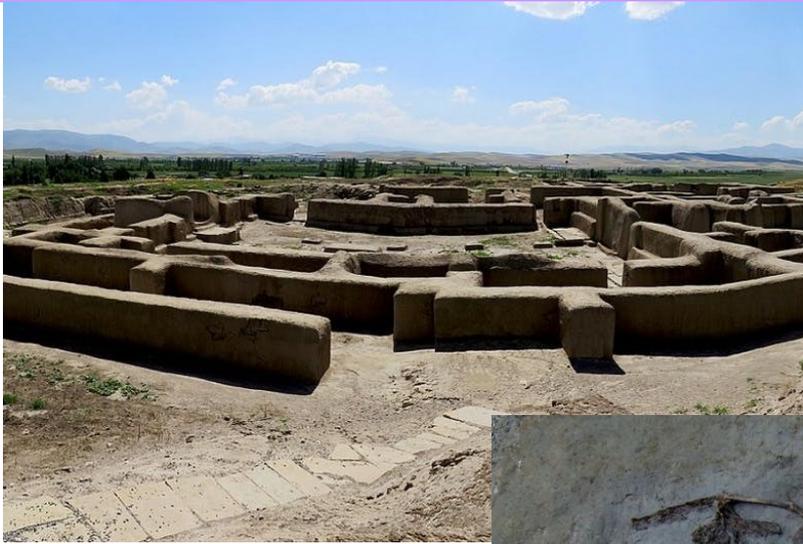
The Department of Labor has announced a proposal allowing employers who are federal contractors to use religion in justifying hiring discrimination, putting hundreds of thousands of workers at risk. Tell the Department of Labor: Don't give employers a license to use our tax dollars to discriminate against LGBTQ people. [The rule also allows employers to fire unmarried pregnant workers, employees who are using birth control or fertility services, people who may not share their religious beliefs, or people who refuse to sign a statement of faith.] https://act.credoaction.com/sign/dol-public-comment-lgbt?t=7&referring_akid=34043.1033482.AyH9Fo



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**October 10
CNN Town Hall
Democratic Presidential Candidates
(See p. 5 for details)**

**October 11
National Coming Out Day**



A recent study of 51 tombs at Hasanlu in an ancient burial complex located in contemporary northwestern Iran shows that burial rites likely included a third gender beyond male and female. Skeletons of a “third gender” were found buried with both male- and female-associated items.

DNA of two embracing skeletal remains were both male. Experts refuse to refer to the couple as gay, but the skeletons, who had held hands for 1,500 years were called the “Lovers of Modena” when they were discovered in 2009. At that time, the gender was not identified.



Two bodies discovered from a 2017 excavation of Pompeii, buried by a volcanic eruption in AD 79, have also been identified as male. Originally called “The Two Maidens,” one person’s head was resting on the other person’s chest. The two, between 18 and 20 years of age, were not biologically related.

Homosexuals don't have an "agenda" that involves brainwashing or converting children to their "ways."



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Fundamentalist Church Loses ‘Religious Freedom’ Lawsuit

The anti-LGBTQ Florida-based church, D. James Kennedy Ministries, can legally be labelled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as a matter of free speech. In a statement, SPLC President Richard Cohen said: “We have a First Amendment right to express our opinions, just as Coral Ridge has a right to express its opinions.” The church also attempted to sue Amazon and GuideStar because the hate-group designations keeps the church from its charitable donations through Amazon’s giving programs and from GuideStar services in connecting non-profits to donors and grant-makers.

Politics on Our Side

An excellent website tracking current Q bills in the United States. <https://www.freedomforallamericans.org/2019-legislative-tracker/>

California: The Viaggio Estate & Winery decided to permit Dezanea Reyes (below left) and fiancée Alex Biddle to marry at the facility after the owners told the same-gender couple that they could not wed at the winery because of the owners' "strong personal religious belief." Knowledge of a state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and post of the owners' prejudice may have led to their reversal of their refusal. Because of the owner's long history of homophobia, Reyes and Biddle said they no longer want to have the ceremony at Viaggio.



Indiana: For the fourth time, ACLU is suing a school for discrimination against students who want to form a GSA. In this case, Leo Jr. Sr. High School forces GSA students to follow rules not mandated for other students. First, the principal opposed the name because "g" represents "gay." Instead, they must use the word "pride" for the club's name and agree that "Pride" is an acronym for

"Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diligence, and Excellence"—nothing to do with Q Pride. The group cannot use words like "gay" and "lesbian" to promote the group and are forbidden a bulletin board because the organization doesn't focus on community service. Other clubs don't need to meet that requirement for a bulletin board.

Unlike other clubs, the "Pride" club cannot meet outside a single classroom and can't participate in school events. The principal requires the group to keep a list of members which is sent to all the school's teachers. The lawsuit claims violation of students' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights and the 1984 Equal Access Act, pushed by Christian conservatives to allow Bible clubs in schools.

Maryland: A district court ruled that transgender military service members have legal standing to sue for their rights; Donald Trump cannot block judicial review of his trans military ban.

Northern Ireland: Marriage equality begins on Valentine's Day 2020 after government ministers said that they can do modifications to the law by January 13, allowing the 28-day waiting period to end by February 14.



Reasons to Celebrate Coming Out Day On October 11

Visibility increases acceptance by showing the meaning of diversity and inclusion.

With critical mass, the Q community becomes a large part of the world instead of a fringe group.

Openness demonstrates our legacy—all the people who struggled and sacrificed to give us the rights that we have today.

Q youth need role models and support.

Allies unaware of the Q background can learn from people who are out.

The increasing number of out people gives courage to those in rural areas and around the world to fight against prejudice and discrimination.

Lethe Press did a walk back memory lane to 2001 when they started the publishing company:

Only the Netherlands allowed same-sex marriage.

People had to read books, and *Damron Guide*, the Q travel guide, was a popular seller.

Q films were available only at special film festivals.

The print edition of *The Laramie Project* about Matthew Shepherd's murder horrified people, but gays continued to be beaten and killed.

And Marlon Bundo was not yet born. (Google him if you don't recognize the name!)

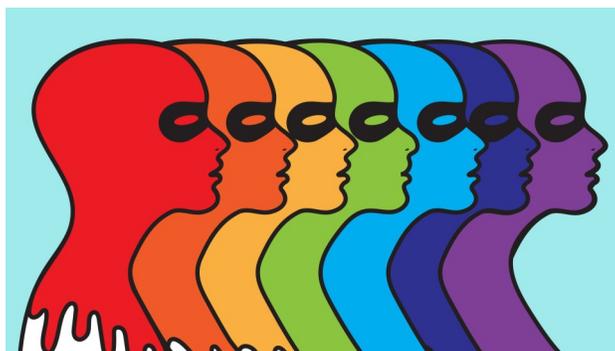
Young Person Calls for Advocacy

Teen Vogue has published an impassioned op-ed by 18-year-old Thomas Chung who writes about the journey to become a Q advocate and the message to other youth. Part of the op-ed includes the reason that we all need to be advocates. Part of this fight for equality is voting.

- ◆ Homosexuality is illegal in 69 countries.
- ◆ Too often, intersex children are subjected to harmful and irreversible surgeries.
- ◆ Transgender people of color are up to four times more likely to live in poverty than the rest of the population, and nearly half of all transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime.
- ◆ Only 21 states have passed laws that prohibit discrimination in all workplaces on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity.

In California, Q "youth organizers have successfully worked to draft protections for LGBTQI youth and have fought for history education and sex education that reflects their culture and needs. They have advocated and mobilized for LGBTQI competency training and all-gender bathrooms in their schools. They've even drafted documents calling for their liberation and have declared support for intersectional liberation of other communities. We know that advocacy works: Last fall, California became the first state to use LGBT-inclusive textbooks.

"At my school, I build safe spaces for LGBTQI students as president of the Genders and Sexualities Alliance Club. Our goal is to create an accepting and understanding student body where no one feels threatened and unwelcome like I did before I came out. Beyond my school, I lead educational workshops on the topics of intersectionality — among race, ethnicity, class, and more — on behalf of the Genders and Sexualities Alliance Network and the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance."



Thanks to Q youth advocates!

Democratic Candidates in CNN Town Hall

The HRC-sponsored town hall for Democratic presidential candidates, “Power of Our Pride,” will be on CNN on Thursday, October 10, from 7:00 to 11:30 pm EST. Neither Sen. Bernie Sanders nor Andrew Yang will participate, but the event, the day before Coming Out Day on October 11 will feature these candidates and interviewers:

- * 7:00 pm: Tom Steyer by Dana Bash
- * 7:30 pm: Sen. Cory Booker (New Jersey) by Bash
- * 8:00 pm: Former VP Joe Biden by Anderson Cooper
- * 8:30 pm: Sen. Kamala Harris (California) by Cooper
- * 9:00 pm: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Massachusetts) by Chris Cuomo
- * 9:30 pm: Mayor Pete Buttigieg (South Bend, IN) by Cuomo
- * 10:00 pm: Former Rep. Beto O’Rourke (Texas) by Don Lemon
- * 10:30 pm: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minnesota) by Lemon
- * 11:00 pm: Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro by Cooper

Qualifying criteria were 2 percent in at least four national polls and DNC donor numbers of at least 130,000 individuals including at least 400 from at least 20 states by September 25. The audience will be comprised of invited guests, Q stakeholders, and members of civic organizations with no public tickets. The town hall takes place at The Novo in Los Angeles.

On September 20, several of the above—Biden, Booker, Buttigieg, Harris, and Klobuchar—participated in the GLAAD presidential forum in Iowa. Marianne Williamson also took part in the event.

Students Easier to Teach than Colleagues about Pronouns



Students in a Philadelphia public school have learned respect for using correct pronouns from their nonbinary 9th-grade English teacher, Maddie Luebbert (right). The preference is for they/them pronouns and Mx. (pronounced Mix) as the honorific before the last name instead of Ms. or Mr. In her first year of teaching, Tai Tran (left), a 24-year-old transgender 7th-grade math and science teacher, prefers Mix.



Emily Brewster, associate editor at Merriam-Webster, said that the first record of Mx. she knows is a 1977 article in a U.S. magazine *Single Parent*. She was instrumental in adding Mx. to the unabridged Merriam-Webster dictionary in 2016 and its website in 2017.



Beck Watt (left), a 25-year-old nonbinary middle school music teacher, said that misgendering is far more common among the other teaching staff than students. Shani Kartané, a 28-year-old nonbinary high school English teacher, agreed. Teachers suggest workshops and sessions with faculty about pronouns and gender diversity. Luebbert said, “A lot of my students have been really passionate about advocating for me and my pronouns.”

People Who Make a Difference



Finnegan and Maxwell (on the right of the couch) are the stars of a video gone viral through millions of views. Best friends, the two ran to each other and hugged. Maxwell is the son of a gay couple; one of them, Michael Cisneros, filmed the two children. The two children and both couples were warmly welcomed by Ellen DeGeneres on her show.

Twice, Virginia GOP leaders failed to censure state Rep. **Denver Riggleman**, another Republican, after he officiated a same-gender wedding for volunteer campaign staffers. He said, "Government shouldn't be involved in marriage at all, but if it is, everybody has to be treated equally before the law. That is part of our Republican creed. And it also comes down to love is love. I'm happy to join two people together who obviously love each other."



Nicholas Bulman (left) became prom king at Barnstable High School (MA) last spring after teachers selected him for one of five candidates. Last fall, his field hockey team held a special pride game for him. Bulman said he struggled with his female identify for years and had an "aha!" moment in eighth grade when he learned the term transgender. In his Instagram post last summer, Bulman described his years of research on what it means

to be transgender and the experts with whom he consulted before making his decision to transition, including endocrinologists, psychologists, therapists, a support group and a primary care physician. With approximately 2,000 students in grades 8-12, Barnstable, in Hyannis (MA), is the largest high school on Cape Cod.

News Bits

Merriam-Webster has added some Q terms to its online and print dictionaries:

- * They – single person whose gender identity is nonbinary;
- * Fabulosity – quality, state, or nature of being fabulous;
- * Inclusive - allowing and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (because of their race, gender, sexuality, or ability);
- * Bechdel test – (from lesbian comic book author Alison Bechdel to evaluate a work of fiction’s inclusion and representation of women) criteria - (1) that at least two women are featured, (2) that these women talk to each other, and (3) that they discuss something other than a man.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

October 6, 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Breakfast at Newport Café—Newport

October 8, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBT & Allies Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Pacific Café, Olive St. north of PAC

October 9, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—Coming Out Celebration, Sharing Our Stories—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

October 11, 5:00-7:00 pm: Trans Support Group—Toledo Public Library, 173 NW 7th Street

October 23, 6:00-7:30 pm: Trans Support Group—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

October 27, 11:00 am: OUT OR Women at Nana’s for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provide emergency or urgent relief to LGBT+ people in Lincoln County. Individuals of any age who identify as LGBT+ (or their caregivers) and who demonstrate a financial need for medical aid, housing, transportation, or food can apply. The maximum grant is \$250. Much of the Grant’s resources come from other LGBT+ people and straight allies. Contact PFLAG OCC at pflagocc@gmail.com for an application.

Media Matters:



The Emmys celebrated the Q community when Billy Porter (left) became the first black gay man to win an acting Emmy (*Pose*) and Patricia Arquette, winning a Supporting Actress award, spoke out against transphobia when she talked about her transgender sister Alexis Arquette (below right), who died in 2016.

Laverne Cox attended the ceremony with ACLU attorney



Chase Strangio, highlighting two Q cases before the Supreme Court.

For the second year, *RuPaul’s Drag Race* won for Competition Program, in the third year that the TV show was nominated in that category. The show won three other awards at the Creative Arts Emmys: Outstanding Costumes for Variety, Nonfiction, or Reality Programming; Outstanding Hairstyling for a Multi-Camera Series or Special; and Outstanding Host for Reality/Competition Program. RuPaul’s message to his audience was to register to vote.

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