

HerlandVoice

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2007 expected to be landmark year for passage of pro-lgbt legislation

A broad coalition of national LGBT and ally social justice groups are working together on the final push towards what is expected this year to be the passage of two major pieces of federal legislation protecting LGBT people in the United States. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, more commonly known as **Hate Crimes legislation**, calls for giving the federal government authority to prosecute hate crimes based on a victim's sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

A second bill, the **Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)**, would provide basic protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and is expected to pass after more than a decade of work, particularly in regard to the inclusion of people of transgender experience. According to the Human Rights Campaign, "Currently, Americans can still be denied job opportunities, fired or otherwise be discriminated against just because of their sexual orientation in 33 states and because of their gender identity in 42 states." Ensure your voice is heard by calling, writing and e-mailing members of Congress and the Senate to encourage your representatives to vote in favor of ENDA and Hate Crimes legislation.

gay marriage advancements

Openly lesbian U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) have introduced House Resolution 431 on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Loving v. Virginia* decision legalizing interracial marriages. HR 431, passed in the House by a voice vote, commemorates the legacy of *Loving v. Virginia* in ending the ban on interracial marriage in the United States and in recognizing that marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man' at the heart of the 14th Amendment protections.

"The Loving decision marked an historic turning point in our nation's history," said Congresswoman Baldwin. "In affirming that marriage is a basic civil right, it brought an end to the statutes that criminalized interracial marriage. Today, once again, we are debating the marriage laws in this nation as same-sex couples seek the right to marry. I believe the Loving case informs this debate," Baldwin said. The Freedom to Marry coalition of activist organizations is running full-color ads in magazines and newspapers to compare the legalization of interracial marriage to the effort by gays to have same-sex marriages legalized. And, in California, the legislature is again pushing for gay marriage after the people of California passed Proposition 22 in 2000 that bans such marriages. The California State Assembly voted to pass Assembly Bill 43, sponsored by gay legislator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). AB 43 will strike references to male and female in the marriage code and substitute the words "two persons."

female athletes wanted

The Wall Street Journal reports that many spots on women's college sports teams are going unfilled as colleges struggle to fill women's team. Even though Title IX effectively banned sex discrimination in college athletics, many colleges can't get enough athletes to fill mandated roster spots. Some say there isn't enough demand but others say it is a lack of recruiting budgets that's the real problem.



Title IX legislation uses a three-prong test for equality in women's and men's college sports teams. But the main test used is called proportionality—there must be the same athletic opportunity proportionate to the enrollment of females and males in the student population. That means if 3% of the male students at a school are on college athletic teams, then 3% of the female students should have the opportunity to be on athletic teams.

And in other sports news, it was recently announced that both Wimbledon and the French Open will afford equal prize money to male and female winners.

women students now accepted at lower rates

In an effort to keep roughly the same percentage of male and female students, colleges are now admitting women applicants at a lower rate than similarly-qualified male applicants. US News and World Report found that college admissions rates for women are dropping because they have closed the gender gap and then exceeded it. The authors found that over the past 10 years many schools are maintaining their gender balance by admitting men and women at sometimes drastically different rates. Men had an admittance rate an average of 12 percentage points higher than similarly-qualified female counterparts had.

The percentage of women in higher education has been steadily growing: From rough parity in 1980, women now make up 57 percent of the 16.6 million American college-goers. By 2010, the Department of Education expects the ratio to be around 60 to 40.

Some of the reasons for the higher number of women in college are that females graduate from high

school at a slightly higher rate than men and are more likely to forgo the workforce for an advanced degree. From the early grades on up, girls tend to be better students. By the time college admissions come into the picture, many watchers of the "boy gap" agree, it's too late for males to catch up on their own. Indeed, beginning in those formative K-12 years, girls watch less television, spend less time playing sports, and are far less likely to find themselves in detention. They are more likely to participate in extracurricular drama, art, and music classes. Across the board, girls study more, score better, and are less likely to be placed in special education classes.

The academic success of women should be good news, especially considering the fact that just a generation ago women were barred from some of the country's best universities: Boston College, Johns Hopkins, the University of Virginia, Brown, Dartmouth, Notre Dame, and Harvard weren't fully coeducational until the 1970s. Men, meanwhile, were barred from a few women's schools such as Radcliffe, Barnard, and Smith, among others.

new report on homeless gay youth

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, in collaboration with the National Coalition for the Homeless, has released LGBT Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness, a report which reveals that a staggering 42% of homeless youth (perhaps as high as 670,000 young people) identify as lesbian or gay, a disproportionate number given that only 3 to 5 percent of the entire U.S. population identifies as such.

The report answers some basic questions, including why so many LGBT youth are becoming and remaining homeless, citing the fact that 50% of gay teens experience negative reactions when coming out to their parents and 26% are told they must leave home because of their disclosure. In addition, the report addresses the harassment and violence that many of these youth experience in existing public shelter systems and summarizes research on critical problems faced by these young people, including mental health issues, substance issues and risky sexual behavior.

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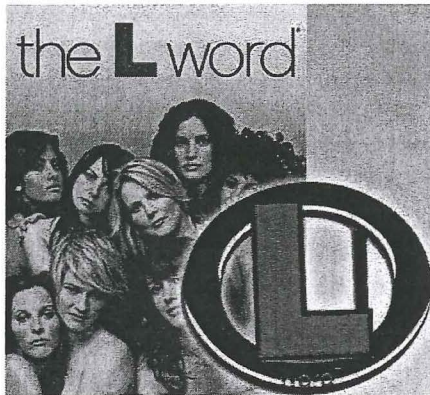
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supper club

The Herland Supper Club will eat at the Iron Starr Urban BBQ, NW 36th and Shartel, on Saturday, July 14, at 5:30 pm. (This is a somewhat trendy BBQ place.) After supper, everyone is invited to come back to Herland for the L word watch party.

L word

Drop by Herland on Saturday, July 14, at 7:30 pm and catch Episodes 7 & 8 of the L Word, season 4.



So far this season, Bette has taken a university faculty position and had an affair with her assistant, then with another faculty member; Tina is finding herself at odds with her old friends now that she is straight; Jenny publishes her first book; Alice has a new girlfriend—an Iraq war vet; and Angus is caught cheating on Kit.

scrabble

Join the Herland Scrabblers on Saturday, July 21, at 2 pm, and play a game or two of this mind-challenging phenomenon or just kibbutz while others play... or offer to help one of the players. There are endless ways to have fun on Scrabble Day.

craft day

Saturday, July 28, from 2-5 pm, Herland will have an afternoon of crafts. Supplies will be on hand for making artbooks, beading, and several other crafts. **Bring the kids** and let them be entertained. This activity is suitable for all ages and all levels of artistic ability. A small donation is requested to cover costs of materials.

music festival

It's time once again for the National Women's Music Festival on July 5-8 in Normal/Bloomington,



IL. This year's performers include Jamie Anderson, Ferron, Ubaka Hill, Michele Balan, Kara Barnard, Wishing Chair and many others. Visit their website at wiaonline.org/nwmf/ for more details.

July 2007 events

National Women's Music Festival July 5-9 Bloomington IL For more info, see wiaonline.org/nwmf/

Miss Brown to You Saturday July 7 UCO Jazz Lab

OGLPC Monthly Meeting Monday July 9 Neighborhood Alliance 1236 NW 36th 7 pm

PFLAG Tulsa Mon July 9 Fellowship Congr. Church 29th & Harvard in Tulsa 6:30 pm

PFLAG OKC Tues July 10 Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

PFLAG Norman Thurs July 12 St Stephen's Church 7 pm

Herland Supper Club Sat July 14 Iron Starr BBO NW 36th & Shartel 5:30 pm

Herland L Word Saturday July 14 7:30 pm

Louise & Mary Saturday July 14 Full Circle Bookstore 7 pm

Herland Board Meeting Sunday July 15 4 pm everyone welcome

Herland Scrabble Day Saturday July 21 2 pm

Peggy Johnson Saturday July 21 Women's Resource Center Norman 7 pm

Herland Voice Mailing Wednesday July 25 6 pm

Louise & Mary Fri July 27 Galileo 9 pm

Herland Craft Day Saturday July 28 2 pm—5 pm

Herland Voice subscription renewal

If you enjoy reading the Voice and keeping up with what's happening in our community, please help us with a small donation. Just \$15 a year will go a long way toward covering our costs. Herland is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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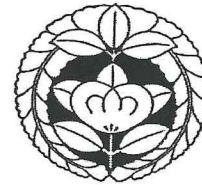


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Rissho Kosei Kai Dharma Center of Oklahoma

Sundays: Service and Hoza 10 am
Wed: Core Teachings of Buddhism Class 7 pm
Thursdays: Herb Class with Kazzrie Neval 7pm
Begins 7/12/07, \$50, Contact kazzrie.neval@cox.net
Saturdays: Hatha Yoga Class with Donna Shafer 10 am
Suggested \$6 -10 donation to RKOK per Class
July 1st Combined Japanese/English Service 10 am
July 6th Movie Night "Mistress of Spices" 7 pm
July 13th Lotus Sutra Study with Kris Ladusau 7 pm
July 15th Dharma Center's 6th Anniversary, with
Obon Memorial Service 10 am, and
Celebration Cookout 12:15 pm
July 24 - 31 Dr. Shinozaki visits from Tokyo
July 26th Fundraiser: Special Music Night with
Mary and Louise 7 pm

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