



Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights

**PRIDE STORE
NOW OPEN!**

**the
Pride Center
News**

TOHR

Vol. 2, No. 4
April 1998

House Passes Bills Prohibiting Gays From Teaching, Adopting

Two recent bills have passed the Oklahoma House which would make it illegal for "known homosexuals" to teach in public schools or to adopt children. Earlier this month, Bill Graves added an amendment to a bill that was drafted to prevent known sexual offenders from teaching in public schools, or doing business with public schools in any way (SB 1394). The amendment basically changed the wording to say that sexual offenders or known homosexuals would not be allowed to teach in public schools. The title had been stripped from this bill, which had originally passed the State Senate without the amendment, so the bill had to go back to committee before it could go to the governor. General consensus is that this bill will never make it back out of that committee.

Bill Graves, who added the amendment, stated on television in response to the action that he didn't expect it to come back out of committee, but that he felt it was necessary because of the homosexuals and pedophiles who are preying on today's children. It's outrageous that we are *still* being grouped with pedophiles! The bill passed unanimously by those representatives present mostly because no one wanted to be on record as having voted against a bill to keep sexual offenders out of public schools. This is just another example of election year politics, but one that has a huge impact on our day-to-day lives.

The second bill (SB1261), which was considered within a week of the first, was a bill which stated that sexual offenders

would not be allowed to obtain custody of juveniles under Oklahoma law. Rep. Tim Pope added the amendment this time, to also include "homosexuals." The vote this time was 97-2 (with 2 abstentions). However, the title was intact on this bill, so now it goes back to the State Senate. Apparently, assurances have been made that the bill will go back to conference, as Jerry Smith, state senator from Tulsa and author of the bill, supposedly doesn't want the amendment included. It now looks

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Pride Picnic Plans In Full Swing

This year's Pride Picnic is already shaping up to be the event of the year in Tulsa. Rick Martin, chair of the Pride Picnic committee has been working diligently for a couple of months on the event and has a lot of plans going. One of the biggest changes this year is the move of the picnic from Owen Park to Veterans Park at 18th and Boulder (behind the Mapco building). We've simply outgrown Owen Park, according to the Tulsa City Parks and Recreation Department. That's great! Let's make this year even bigger! The picnic will once again be from Noon to 5:00 PM, with set-up for booths beginning at 11:00 AM. The second Pride March will begin at 11:30 AM at an as yet undetermined location and will proceed to Veterans Park. Look for info on where you need to be for the march to show your pride.

Booth information and pricing has already gone out to many local and statewide businesses and organizations. If you haven't received anything but would like to have a booth at this year's picnic, contact us at 743-4297 and we'll send you a letter and application. Just fill it out, attach payment for the type of booth you want to have, and send it in. We'll get a confirmation letter out to you as soon as we can.

As has been the case in the past, we are planning to provide beverages at the picnic. Food is usually your own responsibility, but there will likely be some food concessions this year as well. We'll get a flyer and/or a newsletter out with information on the kind of foods available before June 20th.

Once again, music will also be provided by D. J. Michael Rainwater's "Party Express/the Edge" and we're planning some special entertainment to take place throughout the day. We're lining up some great prizes to give away that day, culminating with the grand prize just before 5:00 PM; but you have to be present to win! So plan on spending the whole day with us. You won't regret it! We will begin selling chances on the prizes immediately for \$1.00 each

The design for this year's picnic t-shirt was voted on

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Pride Picnic (Continued from page 1)

at the April 14 general membership meeting at the Pride Center and is now on display at the Pride Center. The first batch of t-shirts is being ordered and should be available by May 1. T-shirts will be available at the Pride Store in the Pride Center; (Store Hours: 6:00-9:00 PM Sunday-Friday, Noon to 9:00 PM Saturday). We'll also make them available through local organizations and businesses as much as possible and, of course, at the picnic, but the Pride Store is your best bet. Get yours early and wear it often. Show your pride! You'll also get one complimentary chance at all of the great prizes on the day of the picnic with your t-shirt purchase.

We are still looking for some good volunteers to help out with some of the planning and also to help out on the day of the picnic. We have a variety of tasks that need to be managed that day which include: helping out at the Pride Center/TOHR booth, selling chances for the prizes, selling t-shirts, setting up for the picnic and cleaning up after the picnic. The Pride Picnic is our chance to show the rest of Tulsa and the state who we really are and that we are PROUD! This can be the best event we've ever had, but we need your help! You don't have to commit your whole day. Just an hour or two from everyone who receives this newsletter would give us enough people to run the entire picnic. Call the Pride Center at 743-4297 and tell us what you can do to help out.



Pride Center Needs

- Plumber to snake out drains, check plumbing in Neal-Padgett Hall, install utility sink.
- Electrician to check wiring in the entrance stairway and one office and install outside light.
- Handyman for various projects; need to build an enclosed frame for a painting.
- Professional carpet cleaner to clean carpets in the Pride Center.
- Domestic goddess to clean the Pride Center on a regular basis.
- Someone to remove a refrigerator from the Pride Center. It does not cool properly.
- People to paint rooms within the Pride Center.
- Volunteers to act as Center Sitters and work at the Pride Store.



House Bill (Continued from page 1)

like the bill will be killed.

Once again, our rights as gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered people are being compromised. Several local and national groups including Cimarron Alliance and Human Rights Campaign (HRC) are watching this issue closely. In fact, HRC fought the ban on gay school teachers many years ago and it was found unconstitutional. However, it is up to each one of us to call our state representative and state senator to let him/her know that this is not an acceptable type of legislation in a country where we are all supposed to have equal rights. The phone number for the state house is 1-800-522-8502; call and ask for your representative. You can also reach *Loyd Benson*, Speaker of the House in this way. The capitol switchboard local phone number is 581-2011. This should allow you to get through to your state senator. You can also reach *Stratton Taylor* (Claremore), President *Pro-Tem* of the Senate at 405-521-5565.

If you do not know your state representative and/or senator, you can find out by calling the election board at 596-5780. Give them your address and they can tell you who your representatives are.

New TOHR Board Members



As was stated in the March newsletter, Tom Neal has resigned from the board of directors for TOHR. Jonathan Stanley, 2nd Vice-President, has also recently resigned from the board.

At the April 14, 1998, meeting, three new board members were presented for membership approval.

Leslie is an accountant with internal auditing experience and will serve as Treasurer, filling the position vacated by Tom Neal. Leslie will take on the responsibility of keeping the organization's financial records current.

Misti has a great deal of experience working in the political arena and will serve as an at-large board member. Misti will concentrate primarily on political and advocacy issues and will be a great asset to TOHR as we seek to continue our history in that area.

Ken will serve as newsletter editor and as an at-large board member. You probably noticed a change in the newsletter format last month and this month. Well, Ken is responsible for that. Ken brings a great deal of desktop publishing experience as well as experience from serving on other boards in the past.

Greg is moving from his position as an at-large board member to the position of 2nd Vice-President, filling the position vacated by Jonathan Stanley. He will continue to serve as volunteer coordinator and in the many other capacities he currently serves, but he will now also be a member of the executive committee.

This leaves one position open on the board of directors. A new board member to fill this position will be named at the May general membership meeting. Anyone having an interest in serving on the board of directors should contact Steve Horn at 743-4297. Plan to attend the next TOHR Membership Meeting on May 12, and meet all the board members.

May General Membership Meeting

The May 1998 general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 1998, at 7:30 PM. The agenda for this meeting may include presentation of proposed amendments to the by-laws for TOHR, presentation of new board member(s) and updates on the Pride Picnic, Pride Store, Pride Center, etc.

The special program for the May membership meeting will be presented by P-FLAG. Members of the local P-FLAG chapter will detail recent activities of their chapter. It's time to build a working relationship with the local P-FLAG chapter. After all, they are our parents, family and friends. Who better to stand beside us in our fight for equality.

And remember... we have a social hour starting at 6:30 PM before the meeting. Why don't you make a point to be there for the next social hour and meeting? See you then!

Rape Survivor Support Seminar Began Apr 19



Are You Aware? Survival Seminar is a support group for gays and lesbians who are victims of rape or molestation. This group will provide an informal gathering for survivors to discuss and share experiences. The group will be meeting on Sundays from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Renfro Room at the Pride Center, 1307 E 38th Street. Call Vickie at 745-6952 for more information.



the Pride Center Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 6:30 Rape Survival Group	27	28 6:00 Coming Out Grp 7:30 Rainbow Business Guild Mtg.	29 6:00 DVIS Support Grp 7:00 AA	30	1 7:00 Bingo Night w/ Family of Faith 8:00 Safe Haven	2 5:00 T.U.L.S.A. 5:30 AA
3 4:00 Council Oak Mens Chorale Mtg. 6:30 Rape Survival Group	4	5 6:00 Coming Out Grp 7:30 TOHR Board Mtg.	6 6:00 DVIS Support Grp 7:00 AA	7	8	9 4-8:00 HIV Testing/ at the Pride Center 5:30 AA
10 6:30 Rape Survival Group	11	12 6:00 Coming Out Grp 6:30 TOHR Social Hour 7:00 Prime Timers Board Mtg. 7:30 TOHR Membership Mtg.	13 6:00 DVIS Support Grp 7:00 AA	14	15	16 5:30 AA
17 6:30 Rape Survival Group	18	19 6:00 Coming Out Grp 7:00 Prime Timers Membership Meeting	20 7:00 AA	21	22 7-11:00 Community Movie Night	23 4-8:00 HIV Testing/ at the Pride Center 5:30 AA 12-6:00 Concessions Drag Car Wash benefiting the Pride Picnic!

Concessions Car Wash Benefits Picnic



Concessions has tentatively planned a fundraiser for the Pride Picnic on Saturday, May 23rd, from noon to 6:00 PM. The event will be a drag car wash similar to the one held last fall benefiting H.O.P.E. and the Pride Center. That's Memorial Day week-

end so go by and get your car washed on your way out of town! Location to be announced.

FREE

Testing

Free & anonymous testing is available at the Pride Center.



Alternating Saturdays
4:00 - 8:00

Come By For Your Copy!

- The Gayly
- Tulsa Family News
- Triangle News
- Community News Voice

Offered through cooperation with H.O.P.E. 834-8378



Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights



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