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Hey, Puddin's...from Page One

received almost \$24,000 this year. The kindness of our patrons in the community is overwhelming. Our funds from Black Tie, Texas Gay Rodeo and Flamingo Fling will pay for educating the public on who we are. Our voice is so badly needed this year. There is an amendment to the Texas constitution to ban gay marriage. Lesbians and gays can't get married in Texas, so the amendment is just more abuse. We won't stand quietly in shame. We plan to lobby representatives locally and in Austin. If you're interested in advocacy, join us.

Pat Smith

Co-president, PFLAG/Dallas – www.pflagdallas.org;
North Texas State Coordinator, PFLAG/Texas
www.geocities.com/pflagtexascouncil

Gay marriage ban opposed

Political consultant says divorce, domestic violence real threats

by Christy Hoppe

The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN – A Democratic political consultant, saying marriage should not become a wedge issue, has formed a group to fight passage of a state constitutional amendment [to] ban gay marriage.

Introducing Practice What You Preach, Jason Stanford said Wednesday that while he agrees with social conservatives that marriage is in crisis, he thinks gays have nothing to do with it.

The threats to marriage are no-fault divorce and domestic violence, Stanford said, and the Legislature should be concentrating on laws that would bolster traditional marriages instead of grandstanding on what he sees as a discriminatory amendment that accomplishes nothing.

"That amendment, win or lose, means gay marriage is still illegal in Texas. Win or lose, marriage is still in crisis in Texas," he said. "The question is whether the Texas Legislature is going to quit the hypocrisy and focus on the real problems."



Stanford also acknowledged that he is hoping to redirect the discussion away from one centered on gay rights, arguments that have proved unpopular with voters. Initiatives banning gay marriage passed by substantial margins in all 11 states where it was on the November ballot.

A constitutional amendment in Texas would require two-thirds' approval in both the House and Senate and ratification by a simple majority of voters. Such approval is all but certain; last year, the Senate endorsed the law by a vote of 22-9 and the House, 118-9.

Randall Ellis, director of the Gay/Lesbian Rights Lobby, believes the amendment "is an attack on gay and lesbians," but an effort to couch it in other terms from independent groups is also welcomed.

"It's important to make an argument in the broadest possible terms," he said.

Stanford, whose group has launched a Web site and plans to raise money for ads and voter outreach, said he realizes the political mountain he faces.

"Any fool could run the other side," he said. "When George Washington crossed the Potomac, no one gave him much of a chance, either. The really great stories in history are not written by slam-dunk favorites."

E-mail choppe@dallasnews.com

Jay, you're okay!

Here's a different answer to the question, "But what can I do?"

Dear Pals:

As a gay activist, I signed up for the e-mail list of Donald Wildmon's American Family Association. Why?

For one, to know what their next dire plan is. For another reason, to interfere with their e-mail campaigns. When they e-mail me and ask to send a right-wing message to a politician, I use their infrastructure to send a message that runs counter to theirs.

Look how I undermined their latest e-mail activism, which originally was a protest against "obscenity" on TV and a call to the FCC to tighten standards. (See my message below).

Go to www.afa.net and sign up for their loopy activist e-mail campaigns...so you can help undermine their activism!

Thanks,
Jay Blotcher

From: American Family Association <jblotcher@hvc.rr.com>

Date: Thu, 16 Dec 2004 11:51:46 -0500 (EST)

To: American Family Association <jblotcher@hvc.rr.com>

Subject: Please ignore the American Family Association's Bullying!

Thank you for using American Family Association Mail System

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Schumer

Senator Clinton

Message text follows:

Jay Blotcher

15 Gravel Road

High Falls, NY 12440

Subject: Please ignore the American Family Association's Bullying!

December 16, 2004

[recipient address was inserted here]

Dear [recipient name was inserted here],

Dear Political Colleagues:

I know the AFA is all atwitter about "obscenity" on TV. Remember that they are a mere minority and a zealous religious group, as well.

The only true obscenity is The American Family Association and their campaign to restrict Freedom of Speech in America.

I beseech you to resist their bullying. They stand against all American freedoms and use the Bible as a cudgel. That is the true sin!

Sincerely,
Jay Blotcher

845/687-2284



PFLAG Board Retreat

There will be a board retreat on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Due to the holidays, no information was available as to the time or the location of the meeting.

Please check the Web site for updates, or attend the meeting on Jan. 13 at Midway Hills Church. Everybody should be back in town and on point by then.

With a new female, Hispanic, lesbian sheriff elected in Dallas, PFLAG is hopeful that 2005 will be a year for moving forward.