

# FAIRNESS

C A M P A I G N

June  
2007

## Tell Gov. Fletcher: Don't Ban Fair Healthcare

*"Pushback."* That's what Gov. Ernie Fletcher claims prompted his reversal on fair healthcare. Last year when the University of Louisville Board of Trustees voted to extend benefits to the domestic partners of unmarried employees, Fletcher said he supported universities' ability to make benefit decisions for themselves. But it's an election season, and now Fletcher is threatening to include a healthcare discrimination bill on the agenda of a special legislative session this summer. "We've got a tremendous amount of pushback (from citizens)," Fletcher told *The Courier-Journal*.

Fair-minded Kentuckians must meet that "pushback" by pushing forward. One way you can help do that is by adding your name to a petition urging Gov. Fletcher not to include healthcare discrimination on the agenda for a special session. To do so, go to [www.kentuckyfairness.org](http://www.kentuckyfairness.org) and select the "Sign Our Petition" link.

Nationwide, industry and education leaders are waking up to the value of diversity in the workplace. More than 300 U.S. colleges and universities now practice fair healthcare, and over half the Fortune 500 do as well. With Kentucky's already fragile economy, it makes no sense to condemn our state agencies to being less competitive. It makes even less sense to send the message that Kentucky is an intolerant place to work and live.

This spring Fairness prevailed in the Kentucky General Assembly. The Senate passed a measure that would ban public universities and state agencies from providing healthcare to committed unmarried couples, but the House Health & Welfare Committee deadlocked on the bill, defeating it. The bill's demise marked an unprecedented victory for Fairness in Kentucky. **It was the first time an anti-gay bill has passed one chamber of the legislature and not become law.**

Help us preserve that victory for 2007! Sign the petition now and urge the governor not to give extremists another chance to ban fair healthcare. And, be sure to share this petition with your friends. National anti-fairness groups continue to try and impose their agenda on Kentucky. Help us meet their "pushback" by pushing forward!

## Help Defend Our Rights with Action

The Fairness Campaign's Legislative Committee is gearing up for summer! Join us Thursday, June 14 at 7 p.m. at the Fairness Campaign headquarters to find out how you can connect with State Representatives, State Senators, School Board members, and Metro Council members to advocate for equal rights for all. What can we expect in the next few weeks?

**Domestic Partner Benefits at public universities:** We believe it's likely that Gov. Fletcher will call a Special Session of the Kentucky General Assembly full of election year grandstanding with our access to healthcare at stake. Only the governor can set the agenda for the session, but his running mate for Lieutenant Governor Robbie Rudolph, referring to the decision of UofL and UK to offer health benefits to the domestic partners of employees at no cost to tax-payers recently threatened, "We'll take care of this once and for all." Not if we can help it, Robbie!

**Fairness for Teachers:** Although the Fairness Ordinance has been passed and re-passed, employees of the Jefferson County School District are still not protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity! With your help we can educate the School Board and our new Superintendent on the importance of Fairness.

Join us as we continue the work for equality and justice for all. Your voice, your passion, your story can make a difference!

## PLAN TO ATTEND

- ★ **A Toast to TECK**, June 12, 6-9 p.m., the DOC at The Connection, networking session centered around transgender issues. (see story inside)
- ★ **Join Fairness in the Pride Parade**, June 15, 7:30 p.m., meet at Preston and Market Streets.
- ★ **Kentuckiana Pride Festival**, June 16, noon to midnight on the Belvedere, 5th and Main Streets.
- ★ **Why Blackface Isn't Funny - Community Discussion on Racism**, June 21, 7 p.m., the DOC at The Connection, join a panel exploring how racism impacts everyone in the LGBT community. (see story inside)
- ★ **Stonewall Awards**, June 24, 6-9 p.m., the DOC at The Connection. (see story on back page)
- ★ **Braden Center Open House**, July 28, 1 - 5 p.m., 3208 W. Broadway, celebrate the Center's renovation and remember civil rights activist Anne Braden on her birthday.
- ★ **Louisville Youth Group** - support and social group for LGBTQ youth 14 - 21, weekly meetings. Call 499-4427.
- ★ **Sienna** - Transgender support and social monthly meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 7 p.m. Call 346-5298 for information.
- ★ **PFLAG** - Louisville - Monthly meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 3 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, 417 E. Broadway. Call 329-0229 for information.

# PRIDE's Inside

## Fairness Benefits: Derby Bash

The Fairness Campaign wishes to extend an enormous thank you to Mark England RE/MAX, Knob Creek and the many volunteers who helped make this year's Derby Bash a huge success. With their generous support, 100% of the contributions will go directly to support the work of the Fairness. The Derby night party at the Mellwood Arts and Entertainment Center drew over 400 people and raised nearly \$16,000.

Special thanks goes to these fabulous volunteers: Mark Bailey, Adrian Boyle, Scott Brooks, Greg Bryant, Sarah Calvert, Larry Cantrell, Lori Clark, Mark England, Tim Fleisher, Doug Foote, Bryan Gatewood, Joe Hagan, Michael Handley, Sarah Harned, John Jameson, Wes Jarboe, Chris Johnson, David B. Johnson, Michael Jones, Alex Kenealy, Jeff Kissenger, Philip Kitterman, Ed Kruger, Eric Lamb, Matt Laukhuf, Mark Lee, Bernie Lubbers, Tim Padgett, John Martin-Rutherford, Donald Palmore, Peter Priest, Allen Purnell, Jeff Rodgers, Mike Show, Jim Watson, Nick Wilkerson, Gregory Wilson.

And, of course, thanks to all of you who attended the festive event and contributed financially to the success of Derby Bash.



Co-host Michael Miller's surprise announcement

## News at the Hat Party

Special thanks goes to Steve Adams, M.D. and Michael Miller for their fabulous idea to add a benefit component to their annual Hat Party that raised nearly \$11,000 for the Fairness Education Fund! The millinery creations at this year's Oaks Day event ran the gamut from understated to outrageous, from petite to double-door entry required. Fairness is so grateful to Steve and Michael and the team of hat makers who raised sponsorships for their chapeaus from friends and colleagues to achieve this wonderful outcome in support of the work for equality. Deepest appreciation and thanks goes to these volunteers extraordinaire – Cecily Adwell, Randy Blevins, Lee Borchert, Bryan Gatewood, Jay Hemphill, Paul Jennings, Peter Priest, Jeff Skelton, and Ed Thomas.



The Kentuckiana Pride Festival committee has planned a series of festive events under this year's theme of *Proud to Be...Me* to celebrate our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer pride with our friends and allies from across the community.

Pride weekend begins on Friday, June 15 with the annual **Pride Parade**. The parade will depart from Tryangles, 209 Preston Street, at 8 p.m. and proceed west along Market St. to Floyd St., turn north to Main St. and continue west on Main to the Belvedere Plaza at 5th Street. Everyone is invited to participate with the Fairness Campaign and we're planning a float again this year. Entries from all community organizations, businesses, faith groups, and others are encouraged. There's no fee to enter the parade, however groups are asked to register. Find out more at [www.kentuckianapridefestival.com](http://www.kentuckianapridefestival.com)

Immediately following the parade at the Belvedere is **Friday Night Fest**, a free event with entertainment by the Blue Umbrellas and Brian Kent.

Pride's signature event, the **Kentuckiana Pride Festival**, will be held at the Belvedere from noon until midnight on Saturday, June 16. Once again thousands of people from all walks of life will join together in 12 hours of fun, activities, organizing and entertainment by Robbie Bartlett, Chris Pureka, Levi Kreis, Georgie Porgie and more to celebrate LGBTQ pride.

## Why Blackface Isn't Funny

This Derby, Louisville was host to plenty of guests, both charming and obnoxious. For the LGBTQ community, one was particularly embarrassing: Chuck Knipp, aka "Shirley Q. Liquor." If you haven't heard, Knipp's act is an offensive showcase of racism and misogyny, in which he parades around in blackface as an illiterate Black woman with 19 children named after venereal diseases and malt liquor brands.

While some people maintain that this is 'funny,' we know that racism and sexism hurt and kill, just like homophobia. The society that says it's okay to set up Black women as an object of derision is the same society that calls a gay man a 'faggot' as soon as he leaves the room.

This is not about 'political correctness' or censorship, either. Chuck Knipp's act is not edgy or controversial; it is just plain mean-spirited and derisive, a cheap laugh mired in a grotesque caricature. It is derogatory to African-Americans and women, shameful to gays, and just plain bad drag. Cruelty is not art, and having good taste is not censorship.

At the Fairness Campaign, we believe that dismantling racism is central to the fight for LGBTQ rights. So long as our community allows this sort of hateful prejudice, we will never achieve any lasting successes in the realm of civil rights.

Join us on Thursday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at the DOC Bar at The Connection for a community dialogue about how racism impacts everyone in the LGBTQ community, how we can challenge racism and how everyone can take a more active role in dismantling racism. Come listen, share and understand more about how challenging racism is in everyone's interest.

## Pride Launches the Transgender Education Center of Kentucky

The Transgender Education Center of Kentucky (TECK) is pleased to announce *A Toast for TECK*, a networking, visioning and information gathering in a social setting on June 12, 6-9 p.m. at the DOC at the Connection Complex. TECK's goals are to empower and edify the transgender community while educating the broader community on transgender issues. This dynamic committee – Tina, Yana, Drew, Vanessa, Gerald – is working to invite ally organizations, service providers, medical professionals and individuals to become involved and help create future programming for TECK. With a long-term vision for an independent organization, TECK is currently working as a committee of the Fairness Campaign to advance education and information about trans related issues in our community.

## Progressives Gather in Atlanta For Change

### Another World Is Possible!

This summer, at this critical moment in history, thousands of activists from across the United States and the world will gather in Atlanta at the **United States Social Forum (USSF)** to plan a new future for us all. If you want real democracy...if you want a society that values human needs, not just profits for a few...if you want human rights for everyone...if you want a healthy planet...if you want peace and justice, plan to be in Atlanta from June 27 - July 1. The USSF is a new kind of gathering. It won't have an agenda set by a small group. All of us who attend can shape the forum ourselves by holding workshops, cultural events and actions.

Among the myriad of issues and movements that will be represented at the Social Forum, six key areas of struggle will be the focus: Gulf Coast injustice, Indigenous sovereignty, workers' rights, gender & sexuality, war/militarism & prisons, and immigrant rights.

Thousands of people from across the United States will come to the USSF to talk about what kind of world we want and how we can get there. The forum will provide space to get to know each other, talk about the problems we face, and bring new ideas and energy home to our communities. We will develop the leadership, visions, and plans we need to make a better world.

The USSF brings to our country for the first time a powerful dialogue that started in 2001 at the first World Social Forum in Brazil. In direct opposition to the closed and elitist World Economic Forum, the World Social Forum has taken place each year in different countries. Other national and regional forums have developed adopting the model of free, equal and open exchange among all who participate. Now we will meet in the heart of the U.S. Southeast, the cradle of a civil rights movement and a wave of grassroots activism that continues to this day. The USSF will show the world that our country has an active movement opposed to oppression here and abroad, including the actions and policies of our own government.

More information on the U.S. Social Forum can be found at [www.ussf2007.org](http://www.ussf2007.org). For information on being part of the Louisville contingent to the USSF, contact Attica Scott with Kentucky Jobs With Justice at [attica@kyjwj.org](mailto:attica@kyjwj.org).

### Build a Queer Left

Having read about the U.S. Social Forum in this newsletter, are you now thinking about going? Queers for Economic Justice and Southerners on New Ground invite you to join in an all-day planning session, to come together to discuss how we can build a national queer left.

There is already a queer left. It exists in the multiple organizations around the country that refuse to separate racial and economic justice from queer lives. It exists when people refuse to put the fact of queerness to the side when working against the war, against the policing of immigrants, the erosion of welfare, the total disregard for healthcare, and the ongoing build-up of the prison system. There is a queer left every time we link the targeting and imprisoning people of color, the creation of rightwing frenzy around the idea of "welfare queens," the control of LGBTQ people through fights like gay marriage, the policing of immigrants combined with an absolute dependence on low wage labor, the linking of family shelters and family support to heterosexual married relationships only, and the never-ending attacks on sexuality as a tool to limit and control single mothers, young people of color, poor people, and queer people. There is a queer left in this country. There is not a connected queer left.

Recently Queers for Economic Justice (QEJ) received a two-year grant from the Arcus Fund to build a coalition between grassroots, progressive queer organizations around the country. Literally, this means to work with you to create the body, or the infrastructure, of a queer left.

At the US Social Forum, QEJ will partner with Southerners On New Ground (SONG) to gather together groups from all over the country who do multi-issue, progressive organizing. Some of these will be explicitly queer groups. Some will be multi-issue, progressive groups who include queerness in a central way. During this convening, folks will get to know each other, learn about each other's work, and vision towards the reality of a visible and strongly connected queer left. All of this will take place on the Tuesday before the U.S. Social Forum - June 26. For details, call or write Susan Raffo at 612-245-4056 or [raffo95@gmail.com](mailto:raffo95@gmail.com).

For information on Queers for Economic Justice, see [www.queersforeconomicjustice.org](http://www.queersforeconomicjustice.org). For SONG, see [southernersonnewground.wordpress.com](http://southernersonnewground.wordpress.com)

## MondoHomo 2007

MondoHomo Dirty South is a queer cultural festival taking place in Atlanta June 27 to July 1 that coincides with the U.S. Social Forum. MondoHomo is a showcase of the diversity of Southern Queer community and its collective contribution to music, art and politics. The event will feature queer music, performance, burlesque, drag, spoken word, arts, crafts, film & video, politics, workshops and more.

More information can be found at [www.mondohomo.com](http://www.mondohomo.com).

### Mike Slaton Named as Interim Organizer

The Fairness Campaign's Coordinating Committee is thrilled to announce that current board member Mike Slaton has agreed to serve as an interim organizer for the Campaign following the departure of volunteer coordinator Phoenix Lindsey-Hall in April.

In addition to his work with Fairness, Mike has a strong history of organizing for social justice, mostly with the Young Democratic Socialists and Citizens Standing Against War (C-SAW). With YDS, Mike conducted outreach to engage



young people around social justice struggles such as the fights for Living Wage, Civilian Review, and Fairness, and to raise awareness around global issues of peace and justice.

Mike was a founding member of C-SAW, which organized forums, debates, film screenings, marches, rallies, 'teach-outs,' and a 'tent-city' to not only oppose the invasion of Iraq, but to explore the real reasons behind it, and their connection to injustice at home. While he enjoys leading chants and giving fiery speeches, Mike believes that the key to affecting change is educating those in power, those in our community and us.

### Looking ahead to the Kentucky State Fair August 16 -26 –

you'll be our *Idol* if you can help us staff the Fairness & Kentucky Fairness Alliance education and outreach booth.

To sign up for a 4-hour shift, call the Fairness office at 893-0788. (includes free admission to the Fair!)



P.O. Box 3431  
Louisville, Kentucky 40201

PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LOUISVILLE KY
PERMIT #879

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Celebrate Pride Month! Join the Fairness Pride Float



### Celebrate Pride!

Please RENEW your membership today and help continue the work for Fairness!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to  
**Fairness Campaign, 2263 Frankfort  
Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206.**

I prefer my gift remain anonymous.

## Celebrate Pride with Fairness!

### Fairness' Pride Float Team

To celebrate Pride, the Fairness Campaign is once again planning to build a fabulous float for the Pride Parade! That means that we need your help to decorate and assemble the float. You don't have to be a handyman or a famous designer, just call the office 893-0788 if you are interested in being part of the 2007 Pride Float Team. We will assemble the float on Thursday evening, June 14 and Friday afternoon, June 15. Come join in the fun!

### Parade with Fairness

Please march with Fairness in the Pride Parade! The parade is Friday, June 15 and we will meet at Tryangles, 209 Preston St., at 7:30 p.m. Bring your flags, signs and friends!

### Fairness Pride Booth

We need lots of people to help work the Fairness Campaign's Pride booth. We will be registering voters, signing up new members, selling stickers and buttons. The Pride Festival is on Saturday, June 16 at the Belvedere, 500 W. Main St., from noon to midnight. We will need people to work 2-3 hours per shift throughout the day. Call the office at 893-0788 if you can join us for a shift! Come hang out, meet new friends, enjoy the festive Pride experience!

## Revival of the Stonewall Awards

The Transgender Education Center of Kentucky (TECK) has announced plans to revive the local Stonewall Awards during this June's Pride month. The June 24 cocktail awards show at The Connection is being built to be the revival of a great community event that highlights the commitments and dedicated actions for justice within and about the GLBTQ community.

The event will be a fundraising event to support the work of TECK to empower and edify the transgender community and educate the broader community on transgender issues. If you would like to help with the Stonewall Awards, nominate a person or group for an award or donate funds to support TECK, please contact Yana Baker at 502.384.8527 or [soprano.caeli@gmail.com](mailto:soprano.caeli@gmail.com).