



The Safe Schools Coalition

Crises: 1-877-SAFE-SAFE
Messages: 206-632-0662 x49
10501 Meridian Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133
www.safeschoolscoalition.org

Ally Action (California)
American Friends Service Committee
Anti-Defamation League
Avanti High School
BEND-IT Queer Youth Arts and Music Festival
Camp Ten Trees
Charles Wright Academy (Tacoma, WA)
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation
Diversity Productions
East Hartford High School (Connecticut)
Equality New Mexico
Families United Against Hate
Friends of Project 10
Gay & Gender Research
Gay Straight Alliance Network
Gender Spectrum
GLOBE (sponsored by PFLAG Everett-Snohomish County)
GLSEN - Washington State
Greater Seattle Business Association
GroundSpark's Respect for All Project
If You Don't They Will
Ingersoll Gender Center
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship/ Kitsap Safe Schools Network
Lake Washington Education Association
Lambert House
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Center
North Carolina Healthy Schools Initiative
OASIS Youth Center/Pierce County AIDS Foundation
Odyssey Youth Center
Olympia Community School
One-In-Teen Youth Services (Nashville, TN)
Oregon Safe Schools and Community Coalition
OSPI (The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State)
Passages Northwest
Peninsula Pride Alliance
PFLAG National – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays – and 4 local chapters: Bellevue, Olympia, Seattle and Skagit Valley
Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest
Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest
Power of Hope
Pride Foundation
Public Health - Seattle & King County
Puget Sound Community School
Rainbow Beach at the Center Project (South Carolina)
Ravenna United Methodist Church
Respect Sacramento (California)
Safe Schools Coalition – Idaho Chapter
Safe Schools of Wyoming
St. Vrain Valley School District (Colorado)
Scouting for All
Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities
Seattle Office for Civil Rights
Seattle Public Schools
Shorecrest High School Gay Straight Alliance
Teaching Tolerance/Southern Poverty Law Center
Teen Talking Circles
Turning Institute
University of Puget Sound
University of Washington - Q Center
Vista Youth Center (Kennewick, WA)
Washington Association of School Social Workers
Washington Education Association
Washington Gender Alliance
Washington State University's Gender Identity/ Expression & Sexual Orientation Resource Center
Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation
YouthAware Educational Theatre
Youth Guardian Services
Youth Suicide Prevention Program

11/18/09

Jenn Metz, Editor-in-Chief

The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Observer Editors:

We at Safe Schools Coalition would like to thank you for your responsiveness to the community's concerns over the recently printed comic in the Observer which promoted violence towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community printed on January 13, 2010. The Safe Schools Coalition rejects the idea that the cartoon was taken out of context or that it was somehow harmless in its description or impact to the LGBTQ community. We support you in looking at ways to make Notre Dame a welcoming and safe environment for all students and their families. Safe Schools believes that all students, faculty and their families should have a safe environment to learn teach and live regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

The Safe Schools Coalition encourages the Observer to continue to challenge divisive behavior in all of its forms. The Observer standing united with the community's petition to have "sexual orientation" added to the University's non-discrimination clause would be a step in the right direction. Listing sexual minorities as protected sends a clear message to all students, faculty and their families that they are important. LGBTQ concerns are currently not listed alongside "race/ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status or age" in the Universities non-discrimination clause. We support and appreciate your attempts to set right the error of running the comic. Yet we think that there is and has been much need for an active effort to support LGBTQ folks at the University.

If Safe Schools Coalition could assist you in finding your message or in advocacy please let us know. Not only are we watching the developments of these events but we also are dedicated to the success of an inclusive campaign.

Sincerely,

Frank Couch

Safe Schools Coalition Intervention Specialist.

Helping schools since 1988 to become safe places, where every family can belong, where every educator can teach and where every child can learn, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.