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"Live, Love, Laugh"  
Pride '08 Comedy  
Night on May 17

e-Pw brings you a glimpse of events near and far, from around your neighborhood to around our world.

GLBTQ Youth Group  
Rummage Sale on  
May 10

### "Live, Love, Laugh" Pride '08 Comedy Night on May 17

AIDS Walk San  
Joaquin 2008 - May  
10

Saturday, May 17th  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at  
the State Theater in  
downtown Modesto

Come OUT for the  
Modesto Relays -  
May 10

High schoolers lend  
silent support to  
gay peers



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**A trio of comedians - headliner Karen Ripley - joined by Dana Cory, and Nick Leonard** - will take to the stage for a night of queer comedy as part of a series of Pride '08 celebrations this year.

**General admission tickets are \$20.00, and VIP tickets are \$30.00.** You can [purchase tickets online](#) or at SPC during drop-in hours. As a bonus, If you purchase a PRIDE Day 2008 VIP Package (also available at SPC) you get a **free upgrade to VIP** for the \$20.00 purchase price of your comedy night ticket.

A VIP after-party immediately following the show will take place at the Queen Bean Coffee House, where comedy-goers can meet and mingle with the performers. For tickets call (209) 527-4697 or visit [www.thestate.org](http://www.thestate.org).

Witnessing the wit of Karen Ripley, Dana Cory, and Nick Leonard makes a funny way of supporting the Stanislaus PRIDE Center! **Our very own Sondra St. James is the evening's hostess.**



09.27.08

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**Event Highlights**

May 17th - [GLBTQ Youth Group Rummage Sale](#)

May 17th - [Pride '08 Comedy Night](#)

June 1-28 - Fellow Travelers: Liberation



ASL/English Interpretation

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Stanislaus PRIDE Day 2008**  
September 27, 2008  
Graceada Park, Modesto

[www.spcpride.org](http://www.spcpride.org)

**GLBTQ Youth Group Rummage Sale on May 10**

GLTBQ Youth Group Fundraiser

**Date:** Saturday May 17, 2008

**Time:** 7am - 4pm

**Location:** College Avenue  
Congregational Church  
1341 College Avenue in  
Modesto



**Donation Drop Off Dates:**

May 10, 2008  
9am - 2pm  
821 Raven Stone Circle  
Modesto, CA

May 16, 2008  
9am to 7pm  
College Avenue Congregational Church  
1341 College Avenue  
Modesto, CA

**AIDS Walk San Joaquin 2008 - May 10**

Saturday, May 10, 2008  
Banner Island Ballpark  
404 W. Fremont Street  
Stockton, CA



Portraits by Mark  
Thompson

June 6 - Fellow  
Travelers: Opening  
Celebration

September 27 -  
[Stanislaus PRIDE Day  
2008](#)



Registration: 9:00 am  
Walk: 10:00 am

Join us to walk or support those who do; help do your part to bring awareness about HIV/AIDS and to increase the knowledge of issues generated by the HIV epidemic through education and awareness.

Enjoy food, live music and fellowship with family, friends and community!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call AIDS Walk San Joaquin at 209-608-9255.

## Come OUT for the Modesto Relays on Saturday, May 10 at MJC

The Modesto Relays Volunteer Coordinator is going crazy trying to fill the final 20 volunteer slots at the Modesto Relays Meet, and the LGBT community could come to the rescue! Help is still needed in all areas: BBQ booths, Coke Booths, Ice/Water delivery, Ticket Sales, and more.



Volunteer for a 4 hour shift and get: A free pass for yourself and a guest, a Modesto Relays T-Shirt, Specially Designated Parking Area for volunteers, and a Food Voucher!

### **(Did someone say free BBQ? Where do I sign up?!)**

Make sure you mention **StanislausPRIDECenter** when you call Felice Hernandez, Volunteer Coordinator, at (209) 568-5838.

## High schoolers lend silent support to gay peers

As published in *The Modesto Bee*, April 26, 2008

### **Enochs and Oakdale teens join in national on-campus protests**

By MERRILL BALASSONE  
mbalassone@modbee.com



Sophomore Jacob Shackelford walked an Enochs High School hallway on Friday with his girlfriend on one arm and a black armband that said "Erase Hate" on the other.

The 16-year-old, who is straight, spent most of his day in silence to bring attention to the name-calling and bullying experienced by some of his gay and lesbian classmates. Jacob said he was the target of glares and some homosexual slurs in return.

"I just kept my head high and kept walking," he said. "I support my friends the way they are. I wish more people saw that."

Students at Enochs and Oakdale high schools, along with 6,000 middle and high schools around the country, took part in a silent protest against the harassment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students and their supporters, called the National Day of Silence.

At Enochs, students made armbands that read "Promote Peace," "Love is Love" and "God doesn't hate." Others wore tributes to Lawrence King, an openly gay Southern California eighth-grader who was shot and killed in his school's computer lab in February. Lawrence allegedly was killed because of his sexual orientation.

At lunchtime, students gathered in a "Silent Space" in the school's quad.

"The kids are really courageous to step forward and stand up for what they believe in," said Debbie Adair, Enochs High's Gay-Straight Alliance Club leader. "I think that's just so admirable of people their age."

Several parents called Enochs High about the day's events, some threatening to pull their children out of school as a result of the silent protest, Adair said.

About 30 students at Oakdale High also spent the day, and their communal lunch period, in silence.

"We definitely made a very loud statement with our silence," said Michael McKibban, an Oakdale GSA adviser. "There were some intolerant comments, but there was a fair amount of respect for what they were doing."

Keith Highiet, board president of the Stanislaus

PRIDE Center, said a shift in popular culture that includes gay icons such as Ellen DeGeneres and Rosie O'Donnell has made it easier for students to "come out" on campus in recent years.

But the boundaries broken by Hollywood don't always translate into teenage social circles.

"I still think the same feelings of the unknown and the same fears persist," Highiet said. "There are still going to be those kids, especially in school, (who are) just going to punish and harass people they see as weaker or see as people they can step on."

In 1996, Modesto City Schools began crafting a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy to protect students from harassment on campus.

Then-Superintendent Jim Enochs said he was spurred to action after hearing the high school-age son of a former student describe being tormented at school for being gay.

The students broke their day of silence Friday night at a "Make Some Noise" rally at Modesto's King-KennedyMemorialCenter.

The SPC facility is open Wednesday through Saturday from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

*The mission of the Stanislaus PRIDE Center is to provide resources to strengthen and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties."*

The SPC has three areas of focus: Culture and Community; Education and Information; Health and Wellness. PRIDE stands for "People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Education".

SPC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Federal tax ID 20-2676088.

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