



Thailand is Coming Closer to Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage

By: Christina Newman

March 27th, 2024: The lower house in Thailand passed a bill that will legalize same-sex marriage.

Back in December of 2023, the lower house of Thailand passed four bills that would recognize same-sex marriage. One of these bills was presented by the administration of Thailand Prime Minister Sretta Thavisin, and the others were presented by opposing parties. All of these bills were joined together and became a single bill, which is what passed the lower house on Wednesday, March 27.

The bill still needs to pass through the upper-house senate and get endorsed by the king before it can become a law. The amendments will be put into effect 120 days after that, it is expected that this law will be put

into effect by the end of 2024.

The Senate will be reviewing the bill on April 2nd.

If this bill becomes law, not only will same-sex marriages become legal in Thailand, but same-sex couples will also be allowed to adopt, grant their rights to inheritance, and also

tax allowances. The committee's suggestion to refer to them as "parents" instead of "fathers and mothers" was not included. It will however change the terminology from "husband and wife" to "married couple." This law will not include Japanese same-sex couples.

Many Thai citizens are excited about this law. Some same-sex couples in Thailand even plan to get married the day the law is put into effect.

Tunyawaj Kamolwongwat, a gay

Member of Parliament from the opposition Move Forward party is also very excited that the bill is moving forward, saying this about the bill passing the lower house, "I feel that



Pride Flag.

equality has happened today. It's a historic day for the Thai parliament that stands to fight for the rights of LGBTQI+." For the past decade, Kamolwongwat has been campaigning for marriage equality.

If this bill becomes a law, it will make Thailand the only country in Southeast Asia to recognize same-sex marriages, and it further helps Thailand's image as a safe haven for couples in the LGBTQ+ community in a region where that is rare. However, even though they are pushing the bill to recognize same-sex marriages, they have rejected bills attempting to legalize people changing their gender identity.

Thai Same-Sex Couple.



Current Events

Battling Buccos: Best Pittsburgh Start Since 1983

By: Jason Walsh II

April 3rd, 2024: The Pirates are currently sitting at the top of the MLB with a 5-0 record to start the season. The Pirates finished last season with a record of 76-86, missing the playoffs. The 5-0 record to begin the season is the best start for the team since 1983 when the team went 5-0 as well. The Pirates' best overall start came in 1962 when the Buccos reeled off 10 straight wins to begin the season.

So far the Pirates battled and won on the road, playing all away games. Pittsburgh swept the Miami Marlins in a four-game series: 6-5, 7-2, 9-3, and 9-7. The team then went on to beat the Washington Nationals on Monday, with a score of 8-4 to start off the three-game series.

Before the hot start of the regular season, the Pirates traveled to Florida for spring training to prepare for the season. While in Florida they played thirty

spring training games, finishing with a record of 13-16-1. During spring training, they faced the following nine teams: Minnesota Twins, Baltimore Orioles, Toronto Blue Jays, Atlanta Braves, Detroit Tigers, Tampa Bay Rays, Philadelphia Phillies, Boston Red Sox, and New York Yankees.

Through five games, Pittsburgh's team leaders are: / Oneil Cruz (SS): 5 runs, 6 hits, 1 home run, 2 RBIs, 2 walks, and a .316 batting average. / Edward Olivares (RF): 3 runs, 4 hits, 1 home run, 3 RBIs, 1 walk, and a .250 batting average. / Bryan Reynolds (RF): 2 runs, 8 hits, 1 home run, 8 RBIs, 5 walks, and a .333 batting average. /Rowdy Tellez (1B): 1 run, 2 hits, 1 home run, 3 RBIs, 1 walk, and a .250 batting average. / Henry Davis (C): 3 runs, 4 hits, 0 home runs, 0 RBIs, 4 walks, and a .250 batting average.

The Pirate's next game is tonight,

Wednesday 4/3 against the Nationals, in Washington at 6:45 p.m. They'll finish the three-game series against the Nationals tomorrow, Thursday 4/4 in Washington at 4:05 pm.

After that series, the Pirates will play in their 2024 home opener at PNC Park facing off against the Baltimore Orioles on Friday 4/5 at 4:12 p.m. They will then continue into the weekend playing the Orioles in a three-game series. They play Saturday 4/6 at 4:05 pm, and Sunday 4/7 at 1:35 pm. After the Orioles series, the Pirates will play two more home games both against the Detroit Tigers on Monday 4/8 at 6:40 pm, and Tuesday 4/9 at 12:35 pm. Pittsburgh then travels across Pennsylvania to play an away four-game series, Thursday-Sunday, against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Games to Watch

<i>WLAX</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3rd vs. ALLEGHENY (PAC)..... 5:00p.m.</i> <i>SATURDAY, APRIL 6th vs. WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON (PAC)12p.m.</i>
<i>MLAX</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3rd vs. ALLEGHENY (PAC)..... 7p.m.</i> <i>SATURDAY, APRIL 6th vs. WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON (PAC).....3:00p.m.</i>
<i>BASE</i>	<i>SATURDAY, APRIL 6th vs. GENEVA.....1:00p.m. & 3:00p.m.</i>
<i>SOFT</i>	<i>SATURDAY, APRIL 6th vs. GROVE CITY.....1:00p.m. & 3:00 p.m.</i>

Current Events

Scientists Develop Insulin-Producing Cows

By: Colin Schroyer

March 30th, 2024: Brazilian scientists have developed a “transgenic” brown bovine cow capable of producing human insulin in its milk. This development can aid individuals living with diabetes.

Researchers from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the Universidade de São Paulo have successfully transplanted a human gene into 10 cow embryos, resulting in one healthy cow capable of producing human insulin in its milk. Their work was published on March 12 in the *Biotechnology Journal* and quickly garnered international attention.

Lead researcher Dr. Matt Wheeler, PhD., served as the study's lead author, which describes the experiment.

Wheeler’s colleagues in Brazil used a process called somatic cell nuclear transfer to insert human DNA into 10 specialized cow embryos. These embryos were implanted into the uteruses of 10 ordinary cows, and from this, one transgenic cow was born.

Researchers intended to genetically manipulate the mammary glands to produce proinsulin, a precursor to the insulin hormone, which would be later purified into insulin. However, much to the scientists' surprise, the cow’s mammary glands not only produced proinsulin but also processed the molecule into usable

human insulin. “The mammary gland is a magical thing,” said Wheeler.

A few shortcomings will need to be analyzed and studied for further research; of the 10 modified cow embryos, only one successfully grew into a transgenic cow.

To induce lactation, experimenters attempted to induce impregnation in the cow, which did not work, so they resorted to hormonally inducing the cow to produce milk. “The biggest limitation of the study was that lactation was necessary for the cows to produce insulin, and transgenic animals often have difficulty getting pregnant via natural or artificial means,” Dr. Andres Splenser, a non-study author, commented.

The concept serves as a successful proof-of-concept that could be expanded, which could easily cut costs and increase the availability of insulin. The average unit of insulin is 0.0347 milligrams. With the average Holstein bovine producing 40-50 liters of milk per day and 1 gram of insulin produced per liter, just one of these transgenic cows can produce over 1 million units of insulin daily.

Diabetes is a condition that negatively impacts insulin production and use in the body, resulting in various complications, including cardiovascular disease, kidney damage, and injury to limbs, among other symptoms.

There are two types of diabetes: type 1, believed to be the result of an autoimmune reaction, causes the body to stop producing insulin; type 2 causes the body to have difficulty using insulin and maintaining normal blood sugar levels.

In 2021, over 38.4 million Americans were reported to have diabetes, with 2 million having type 1 diabetes specifically. Additionally, 97.8 million Americans age 18 or older have prediabetes and live at risk of developing the condition. When considering these statistics, the impact of this new scientific development is undeniable, helping to provide more insulin to the world and resulting in access to the substance becoming less costly.

The experiment requires more testing and, further along, will also need approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration before being scaled up for national or international application. But, once that time comes, these cows can ease shortages and make insulin readily affordable and available for those living with diabetes, as well as opening a wealth of opportunities for new research in diabetes treatments.



Current Events

NCAA Final Four Games Set

By: Jacob Walsh

The 2024 NCAA Men's and Women's basketball Final Four championship game matchups have been set. This is the first time in tournament history that two schools have teams competing in both Men's and Women's basketball. Those two teams are North Carolina State and Connecticut (UConn). Along with those four, Alabama and Purdue also advanced in the Men's bracket while Iowa and South Carolina advanced in the Women's bracket.

In the Men's round of the Elite Eight, no.6 Clemson faced off against no.4 Alabama, and no.3 Illinois played no.1 UConn on Saturday, March 30th. Clemson showed up against Alabama but could not put the Tide away. Alabama won 89-82 with Mark Sears leading the team with 23 points. As for UConn, they had no trouble handling Illinois, coming out victorious 77-52. Donovan Clingan led the Huskies to victory, scoring 22 points.

On Sunday the 31st, no.2 Tennessee met up with no.1 Purdue while Cinderella no.11 NC State battled conference rival no.4 Duke. Purdue would finish off the Vols by a score of 72-66 with Boiler-

maker Zach Edey having himself a day, dropping 40 points. In the NC State-Duke matchup, the Wolf Pack kept dancing, vanquishing their rival 76-64. The upset came with NC State's DJ Burns Jr. tallying 29 points.

Also on the 31st, in the Women's Tournament, no.1 undefeated South Carolina dropped 70 on no.3 Oregon State, beating them by 12. Tessa Johnson led the Gamecocks with 15 points. no.3 NC State played no.1 Texas on Sunday as well, with NC State winning 76-66. Aziaha James helped push her team past Texas by scoring 27 points.

Monday, April 1st, gave the most viewed Women's college basketball game in history. No.1 Iowa and Caitlin Clark faced off in a championship rematch against no.3 LSU and Angel Reese. The game was knotted through most of the game, being tied at half, until Iowa began to run away with the lead late in the 4th quarter. The Hawkeyes would hold on and beat LSU 94-87.

Caitlin Clark scored an astounding 41 points with 12 assists and 7 rebounds. The Iowa-LSU drew 12.3 million views, shattering the previous 9.9 million rec-



Left: Donovan Clingan



Below: Caitlin Clark

ord. The second game on Monday was no.3 UConn facing off against no.1 USC. Freshman phenom JuJu Watkins put up 29 points but it was not enough to pull the Trojans past UConn, falling 80-73. As for UConn, their star player, Paige Bueckers, tallied 28 points with 6 assists and 10 rebounds.

All of these games lead to the weekend of April 5th to April 8th, in the Men's and Women's Final Four matchups.

MENS: (Sat. 4/6) no.11 NC State vs. no.1 Purdue at 6:09 p.m., no.4 Alabama vs. no.1 UConn at 8:49 p.m. (Mon. 4/8) NCAA Men's Championship Game, time TBD.

WOMENS: (Fri. 4/5) no.3 NC State vs. no.1 South Carolina at 7:00 p.m., no.3 UConn vs. no.1 Iowa at 9:30 p.m. (Sun. 4/7) NCAA Women's Championship Game, time TBD.

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