

OITM Roundup: State, National and World News Briefs

compiled by Kip M. Roberson
OITM Staff

Bennington clergy fight adoption bill

BENNINGTON -- Six Bennington clergymen are fighting a provision of an adoption reform bill that would allow unmarried couples and homosexuals to adopt. "We oppose this inclusion on the grounds that it further undermines the already weak family unit, it places the child in a setting of insecurity, and it says to the children that immoral lifestyles are normal and accepted in this state of Vermont," the group said in a letter to their local legislators, as well as several state newspapers.

The bill passed the Senate on Jan. 26 and is expected to move quickly in the House. That provision had been the subject of some controversy during the initial Senate debate on the issue. There was even a move to strike it from the legislation, essentially banning unmarried couples from being able to adopt.

That amendment failed on a vote of 22-7. But the debate could resurface during House consideration of the measure.

The clergy stated in their letter that marriage today is "an insecure institution," and "to place a child in a situation of almost certain disruption is a situation of insecurity into which no child should be intentionally placed."

Signing the letter were Revs. Glen Bayly, Jerry Frey, David Jinno, Dan Curtis, John Goyette and Bob Lebert. (*Bay Windows*)

Canada extends couples benefits to gay workers

OTTAWA -- Canada's government has taken a giant step and extended at least some of the benefits enjoyed by married federal employees to gay and lesbian partners of government workers as well.

Canadian rights activists lauded the Treasury Board's decision, which affects more than 200,000 government workers, as a "great step forward for equality" in the country.

The new policy hardly represents putting same-sex couples on equal footing with married workers, however, and does not include such important traditional benefits as insurance and pension at all. But it does break dramatic new ground, activists say, and does allow government employees to take a leave of absence for an ailing partner, permits workers to have bereavement leave in the event of

the death of a partner, and extends to a worker's partner the same flight and housing allowances given to spouses of government employees on work assignments around the country. (*News Telegraph*)

Children of lesbians seldom grow up to be gay

NEW YORK -- A study of 25 children raised by lesbian mothers found that only two became gay adults, contradicting the popular belief that such youngsters have a high chance of being homosexual when they grow up.

The study, done in England, is the first to track children reared in lesbian families from childhood to adulthood, said Susan Golombok, a professor of psychology at City University in London.

The 25 children grew up with their lesbian mothers, most of whom had a female partner. For comparison, the study also tracked 21 children who grew up with unmarried heterosexual mothers, most of whom had a male companion.

None of the children in this comparison group considered himself or herself to be gay when interviewed as adults. The difference between that finding and the result for the lesbian families was not statistically significant.

"There's a very strong view among the lay public that these children have a very high chance of

Health Resources

AIDS HOTLINES:

Vermont	800-882-2437
New Hampshire	800-752-2437
New York State	800-541-2437
Massachusetts	617-522-4090
Maine	800-851-2437
National	800-342-2437
Canadian	613-563-2437

AIDS Community Awareness Project (ACAP)

PO Box 608
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-1149

AIDS Community Resource Network (ACoRN)

PO Box 2057
Lebanon, NH 03766
(603) 448-2220

Bennington Area AIDS Project

PO Box 1066
Bennington, VT 05201
(802) 442-4481 or 1-800-845-2437

Brattleboro AIDS Project

PO Box 1486
Brattleboro, VT 05302
(802) 254-4444 (Helpline)
(802) 254-8263 (Office)

Franklin-Grand Isle AIDS Task Force

P. O. Box 241, St.
Albans, VT 05478
(800) 524-7742 • (802) 638-7834

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous

GLAA, P.O. Box 5653
Burlington, VT 05402
(802) 658-4221

Lesbian Cancer Support Group

(802) 660-8386

North Star (Holistic Health Care)

RR2 Box 3255
Morrisville, VT 05661
(802) 888-2858

Vermont AIDS Council

PO Box 275
Montpelier VT 05601
(802) 229-2557

Vermont C.A.R.E.S.

(Committee for AIDS Resources, Education, and Services)
PO Box 5248 • 37 Elmwood Ave., Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 863-2437 (Burlington)
1-800-649-2437 (VT)

Vermont Department of Health

1-800-882-2437 (AIDS Hotline)
or (802) 863-7245
(AIDS Program office)

VT PWA Coalition

PO Box 11
Montpelier, VT 05452
1-800-69-VT-PWA or (802) 229-5754

Vermont Women's Health Center

336 North Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 863-1386

Don't forget your rubbers.

You don't get it from toilet seats. You don't get it from coffee cups. You don't get it from desk tops in a school room. It doesn't fly through the air or swim around in hot tubs. You don't catch it from shaking hands, kissing, sneezing, wrestling or dancing.

According to the Surgeon General, your best protection against AIDS, barring abstinence, is use of a condom. For the facts about AIDS, call the Vermont AIDS Hotline.

VERMONT AIDS HOTLINE: 1-800-882-AIDS

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