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Massachusetts

GREASY WORK GUYS This good looking, sexy, 35 year old, leather bear, 5'10, 200lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, a beard and mustache, seeks casual encounters with roughnecks, leather guys, greasy, oily, raunchy men, and other hot studs. I love leather, piercings, tattoos, bikers, construction dudes, boots, chaps, cigar smokers, and guys over 35. (Boston) #12240

SHOW AND TELL This sexy, Bi, male stripper, 6'11, 270lbs, with Brown hair and Green eyes, has a lot to show off. Wanna know more? (Boston) #10627

SEEKING BUDDY I'm a 48 year old, Gay, White male, hairy and trim. Give me a call. (Boston) #5026

ASIAN DATE Clean shaven, attractive, White male, 5'9, 155lbs, with Black hair and dark eyes, seeks Asian guys for dating and casual fun. A long term relationship is a possibility. Your age is not important. (Boston) #3998

MASS ATTACK Nice looking, well endowed, White male, 6'1, 220lbs, loves to do just about everything with a man. I'm hoping to meet other hot, nice guys, to have fun with. (Burlington) #10852

PROWLING FOR MUSCLES This well built, young, White male, 20, 5'8, 145lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a muscular build, seeks other good looking men, in the area, for hot fun. (New Bedford) #10658

STUD SESSIONS Horny, good looking, slightly hairy, White male, 20, 5'11, 150lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks other studs for fun times. (Peabody) #11506

I WANT FRIENDS Good natured, 24 year old, White male, seeks nice guys to get to know. A relationship is possible if we hit it off. (Springfield) #10779

LET'S DO STUFF This good looking, 42 year old, White male, 6ft, 200lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, enjoys working out, and having fun with sexy men. I like masculine, aggressive, well hung men, with a wide variety of interests. (Springfield) #8842

COACH'S ORDERS My schedule is busy so I can't always get out to meet people. So I like to talk on the phone and do role playing. I can play the coach and do some discipline. #7065

New Hampshire

SAVOR THE FLAVOR Masculine, muscular, Gay, White male, 31, 175lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks an honest, sincere guy, who's willing to take it slow. (Nashua) #10036

PLAY IT BY EAR Attractive, affable, Gay, White male, 31, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks other Gay, White males, for friendship or whatever develops. #10361

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE I live in central New Hampshire so it's easy for me to get to anyone in the state. I'm an attractive, White male, hoping to meet young guys, 18 to 27. #8105

BI YEARNING Bi guy, 32, in southern New Hampshire, is dying to get it on for the first time. #3624

New York

SMELL LIKE A MAN? Good looking, White male, seeks masculine guys who are very dominant, who I can orally service. I love smelly, regular, good, hot men. I'm 5'9, 170lbs, and I love men. Any race and age, as long as you're a hot man. I'm into leather, bondage, watersports, and more. (Albany) #10873

VISITING CAESAR I'm a good looking, Puerto Rican guy, 22, 5'10, with a Caramel complexion, goatee, and Caesar haircut. I'm new here and would like to hook up with someone who can show me the sights and sounds of Albany. (Albany) #9824

SECOND TIME AROUND I'm a good looking, White male, 49, 6'1, 220lbs, with Blond hair, Blue eyes, a mustache and a muscular, athletic build. I'd like to explore but hope to find a long term relationship. I enjoy the arts, working out, dancing, theater, film, cuddling, and romance. (Plattsburg) #11106

Vermont

TWOS AND THREES I want to meet hot men, from Bennington to Rutland, interested in discreet, sexy, one on one and threeway action. (Bennington) #7634

BETWEEN YOU AND ME I'm looking to meet Gay or Bi males, in the Bennington and Rutland areas, for discreet get togethers and a possible friendship. (Bennington) #8868

DANCE WITH ME This 38 year old, White male, 6'1, 285lbs, wants to meet someone who likes to go out dancing and having fun. We'll take it from there. (Brattleboro) #21178

HEARTFELT IN HARTLAND Well built, White male, 43, 6ft, 180lbs, seeks other good looking men for fun times. (Hartland) #9360

MADLY IN LOVE This sincere, good natured, White male, 5'6, 200lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks a mutually loving relationship with another nice guy. I can't promise that we'll fall madly in love on the first date but we have to start somewhere. (Lindenville) #12117

PURE HEART I'm an outgoing, fun loving, intelligent, White male, 32, 5'6, 200lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and moderately hairy body. I'm searching for a long term relationship with someone special. I enjoy cooking, antiques, camping, fishing, travel, and checking out the dance clubs in Canada. (Lindenville) #10261

CREATIVELY KINKY This good looking, bearded, balding, Gay, White male, in my 40's, 6ft, 195lbs, with a hairy chest, is a submissive, leather guy. I'm seeking creatively kinky, dominant men, for fantasy fulfillment. I love to be bound to please you, sir. (Montpelier) #10562

JERSEY GENT I just moved here from New Jersey. I'm a sweet, honest guy, looking for friendship or more with someone special. I'm a Gay, White male, 5'9, 258lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, glasses, and a mustache. (Newport) #8514

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS Nice guy, new to central Vermont, wants to meet other nice men for friendship, hanging out, or more. I like hiking, long walks, movies, chilling out, dancing, music, and much more. I don't do the bars much so I haven't met many people. I have a fascination for muscular bears. I have a bit of a big belly. (Rutland) #8363

LEAN AND LIVELY I'm a Gay, White male, in my early 20's, 5'10, 140lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a swimmer's build. My interests are many and I'd like to meet and share them with you. (Rutland) #8359

ADVENTURE BUDDY This good looking, well built, 30 year old, Italian male, seeks an adventure buddy, under 40, who's handsome and hard bodied. I hope you like to wrestle around and get sweaty, when we're not out skiing or hiking. I like the down to earth, naturally assertive, take charge type. I'm in southeastern Vermont. #10134

NOVICE EXPLORERS This good looking, submissive, leather man, in my 40's, 6ft, 195lbs, is a bearded, balding, hairy chested, bear type, seeking dominant men for kinky, creative encounters. Adventurous explorers and novice men especially encouraged to call. A long term relationship is possible. #8557

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES I'm a smooth, muscular, clean shaven, White male, 46, 5'8, 148lbs. I need an angry, hot, fat daddy, or an angry, Straight husband, to pull my pants down, turn me over his knee, and give me a good, hard, old fashioned, bare bottom spanking. I deserve it. #8280



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Massachusetts

RIDE DOWN THE PATH WITH ME White female, in my twenties, wants to go biking and camping, with a womyn in her thirties. Let's see where the path takes us. (Boston) #3082

MAKE ME MOVE I've been looking for love in all the wrong places and I'm willing to relocate to find the real thing with a romantic womyn with a great sense of humor. I'm a 23 year old, White female, 5'8, 185lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes. I like to dance, watch movies, cuddle, and much more. (Pittsfield) #10835

New York

I WANTED TO SAY I'm an attractive, intelligent, fun loving, adventurous, kind hearted, White female, who'd like to find a similar womyn who's trustworthy and very good looking. (Albany) #8565

LESBIAN LONGING Twenty six year old female seeks a Lesbian, 20 to 27, to fulfill my desires. (Albany) #3864

Vermont

GETTING ACQUAINTED I'm a 30 year old, White female, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, and I'd love to meet some new people. (Rutland) #10291

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Marriage Suits Moves to VT Supreme Court

continued from front page

Shelburne, South Burlington and Milton where the couples had been denied marriage licenses. In their challenge, the couples contend that existing Vermont laws do allow same-gender marriage and, if not, that those laws violate the state's Constitution. No trial was necessary because the issue at this stage in the case is whether, as a matter of law, the couples have a right to marry.

Judge Levitt outlined her analysis of the case in an opinion issued with the dismissal. She began by rejecting the State's contention that the question of same-gender civil marriage should be reserved for the legislature. Although it is the legislature's job to enact new law, the judicial branch maintains the power to interpret and apply law. Furthermore, Judge Levitt asserted it is the judiciary's job to review all statutes in light of the Vermont Constitution when a violation of constitutional rights is alleged.

Vermont's marriage laws contain no explicit prohibition against marriage between people of the same gender but the Attorney General argued that multiple gender-based references in the statute to "bride" and "groom" and "husband" and "wife" were proof of the legislature's intention to limit marriage to mixed-gender couples. Judge Levitt agreed. She declined the plaintiff's invitation to examine the legislative intent in any more detail or breadth and concluded that current Vermont statutes do not allow same-gender marriage. From there she proceeded to review the constitutionality of the existing marriage laws.

The plaintiffs based their arguments on the Common Benefits Clause of the Vermont Constitution which provides in part: "That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single person, family, or set of persons, who are a part only of that community..." Vt. Const., Ch. I, Art. 7.

When looking for violations of this clause, Vermont courts rely on an analytical framework developed through federal equal protection law. First, the Court must decide how closely to examine the State's claimed justifications for its discrimination. If the most exacting type of review, known as "strict scrutiny" applies, the State has to show a compelling interest to justify its discrimination; if the more deferential review, known as "rational basis" applies, the State only needs to show that its discrimination is reasonably related to a legitimate state purpose. An intermediate level of review is also possible. To select the appropriate level of review, the court must determine whether a "fundamental right" is at stake, or whether the plaintiffs are members of a "suspect class". If not, only the minimal standard of review applies.

Judge Levitt found neither a fundamental right nor a suspect class to justify heightened scrutiny of the marriage laws. In the first tier of this analysis, she rejected the plaintiffs' argument that the freedom to join in marriage with the person of one's choice is a federally and state recognized fundamental right. Although she agreed that mixed-gender marriages do receive constitutional protection, she held that these protections did not apply to same-gender marriages because those protections derive from the connections between marriage, sexual intercourse, and procreation.

She also rejected the plaintiffs' argument that both sexual orientation and gender are suspect classifications requiring a heightened standard of review in this case. While noting a clear history of discrimination against gays, Judge Levitt rejected sexual orientation as a suspect classification because being gay "is not a characteristic that is as readily determinable by third parties as race, gender or alienage....[and because] gays have not been denied access to the political system, and cannot be seen as politically powerless." And while Judge Levitt next noted that gender is a recognized suspect classification which requires a heightened level of scrutiny, she denied its applicability to the issue at hand. Referring again to the definition of marriage which is premised on a union between partners of opposite gender, Judge Levitt drew the circular conclusion that an individual's gender is irrelevant to marriage because all men and all women are treated in the same fashion. According to the judge, members of each sex have the same right to enter into civil marriage so long as they do so in a manner consistent with the definition of marriage.

Having found neither a fundamental right nor an applicable suspect classification, Judge Levitt proceeded with the final stage of her analysis in which she reviewed the marriage statutes with minimal scrutiny to look for a rational relationship between any legitimate legislative purpose and the restriction against same-gender marriage. Ironically, it was in this search for any one legitimate public policy objective that the statute nearly failed. Judge Levitt rejected six out of seven justifications offered for the State's refusal to grant same-gender couples the right to civil marriage. In brief, these purported interests are: an interest in uniting men and women to "bridge their differences"; an interest in promoting a setting which provides both male and female role models; an interest in preserving the "time honored" institution of marriage; an interest in ensuring that Vermont marriages are recognized in other states; an interest in preserving the Legislature's authority to channel behavior and make normative statements; and an interest in minimizing the use of modern fertility treatments in order to avoid increased child custody and visitation disputes. Having found in the first six items no adequate State interests, Judge Levitt found in the seventh reason a satisfactory basis: the State's purported interest in furthering the link between procreation and childrearing. On this basis alone the marriage statute survived her constitutional review.

Judge Levitt's repeated focus on the connection between marriage and procreation is both cause for frustration and hope for supporters of the plaintiffs' case. "The Judge's reasoning is ironic," said plaintiffs Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles. "Gay and lesbian individuals and couples like us have children. We share the State's concern for promoting stable homes for children. That's why we wanted to marry." Judge Levitt also declined to explain how the State's admitted interest in favoring the needs of families headed by mixed-gender couples over those headed by same-gender couples can survive the particular language of Vermont's Common Benefits Clause which offers families as well as individuals equal protection under law.

Attorney's for the plaintiffs are now preparing a brief for their appeal to the Supreme Court where they will argue once again for the freedom to marry. "It is our fervent hope" said Plaintiffs Peter Harrigan and Stan Baker, "that the Vermont Supreme Court will come out in favor of love and commitment, and against discrimination." The Plaintiffs and their attorneys remain optimistic.

Unitarian Universalists and Interweave

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the beginning. Many may recall Pride rallies and parades beginning on the UU front steps. The congregation has also been consistent in supporting Vermont Cares, first offering space to the group when it was started and then covering the uninsured costs of rebuilding after an arsonist attacked. He points out that, at the Annual Meeting in June of 1997, the congregation unanimously endorsed same-sex marriages without debate. It went on to debate for a half hour, without resolution, how to decorate the vestibule.

Kowalski feels that UU's are usually a little ahead of the curve, pushing the envelope in a progressive direction, but also changing and growing themselves. This is evidenced by two milestones in UU history. A 1967 survey within the North American UU found that 80.2% of UU's believed that homosexuality should not be discouraged by law, but should be discouraged through education. Not exactly supportive. In 1970, just a year after Stonewall and, significantly, after a prominent UU came out, the UUA General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the end of discrimination against homosexuals. With some fits and starts, the UUA had become an ardent supporter of ours by the early 1980's.

Interweave is a funded and staffed office at the UUA of North America in Boston. Each congregation is free to utilize Interweave locally as they wish. In Burlington, Interweave is a loose knit group which meets the second Sunday of each month for a potluck at 12:30 downstairs in the social room of the Meeting House. Interweave has recently participated in the formation of a parents group for glibt people with children. People need not be connected with the UU in order to join in on the potlucks.

I have found the UU to be very comfortable for me. Most importantly, to me, I have never gotten even a whiff of being tolerated. I have felt, rather, that my sexuality and glibt culture in general are celebrated and honored at this place and by these people.

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