

Lesbian  
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E D U C A T I O N  
O U T R E A C H  
S E R V I C E S

# Out Words

## LGBT news takes a front seat!

It's far too common for LGBT people to have to search out news that is specific to our community. We read news briefs in the gay press; we get emails from friends, but over the past months things have been a little different!

LGBT topics have been seen and heard in mainstream media with new frequency and what seems to be a new staying power.

*What should you know about?*

### Lawrence and Garner v. Texas -

The U.S. Supreme Court voiced its opinion on sodomy in this historic ruling, by striking down Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law in a stunning 6-3 decision. The law criminalized sex by consenting LGBT couples. It was also commonly used to justify discrimination against sexual minorities in a variety of other areas, from employment discrimination to the barring of gay-straight alliances in schools.

The case involved two men who were arrested in their bedroom and jailed after police found them engaged in private, consensual sex. (Police had responded to the house in response to a false report). They were convicted, fined, and even considered sex offenders in several states due to this conviction. Prior to this ruling, thirteen states had consensual sodomy laws - some of which applied to both LGBT and heterosexual adults but were usually enforced only against sexual minorities. This Supreme Court decision nullifies sodomy laws in all these states.

Lambda Legal, the organization that represented Lawrence and Garner, called this "The most significant ruling ever for lesbian and gay Americans' civil rights." Ruth Harlow, legal director of Lambda Legal, commented "For decades, these

laws have been a major roadblock to equality. They've labeled the entire gay community as criminals and second-class citizens. On June 26, the Supreme Court ended that once and for all."

**Goin' to the chapel...and we're gonna get ma-a-a-rried**—Our neighbors to the north in Canada began legalizing same sex marriage. The provinces of Ontario and British Columbia, Canada, now allow same-sex couples to marry. On June 10, 2003, Ontario, Canada's Court of Appeal in *Halpern v. Attorney General of Canada* declared existing marriage law restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples unconstitutional.

Five LGBT civil rights organizations in the U.S. issued a rare joint advisory on this development. "The high court ruled that the exclusion of same-sex couples from civil marriage infringes human dignity, harms families, and violates the constitution. The court ordered an immediate end to this cruel discrimination." On July 8, the Court of Appeals in British Columbia removed the last barriers to marriage for same-sex couples in that province as well. The Canadian legislature will soon consider legislation to permit marriage by same-sex couples nationwide.

The joint advisory continues, "American couples, different-sex or same-sex, may go to Canada to marry. Canada, like the United States, has no residency requirement for marriage (though it does have a one-year residency requirement for divorce).

American couples who go to Canada to marry should realize that the decision is not just a political gesture, but rather is about taking on all the responsibilities, legal obligations, joys, and wonder of being married. When couples who marry in

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"...I think there's always going to be a difference of opinion on issues. The church was almost split by the ordination of women. ... I suspect that, if [the Rev. Gene] Robinson is confirmed [as bishop] and if the Episcopal Church decides to have some sort of a rite that blesses a same-sex union, there will be people who are uncomfortable with it. But, over time, I think the church has to be true to what it sees as its prophetic mission. It has to decide how best to preach God's love and the message of Christ.... We bless foxhounds. We bless houses. Why not bless people who are in a good relationship in the church and include them?" **Trevor Potter, Republican attorney and gay Episcopalian.** *As the Episcopal Church prepared to discuss same-sex relationships and the possible confirmation of a New Hampshire gay canon as bishop at its national convention, Potter appeared on CNN.*

"We never chose to be public figures or to take on this fight. But we also never thought we could be arrested this way. We're glad, not only that this ruling lets us get on with our

lives, but that it opens the door for gay people all across the country to be truly equal. We're grateful to everyone who has respected our privacy over the last few years, even if the state of Texas did not respect it that night in 1998." **John Geddes Lawrence, who was arrested with Tyrone Garner for violating Texas' law against sexual behavior between same-sex partners.** *The Supreme Court used the case to overturn sodomy laws in all of the 13 states that still had these laws in effect.*

"I write separately to note that the law before the Court today is 'uncommonly silly.' If I were a member of the Texas Legislature, I would vote to repeal it...it does not appear to be a worthy way to expend valuable law enforcement resources." **Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, regarding Lawrence v Texas.**

"Adults may choose to enter relationships in the confines of their homes and their own private lives and still retain their dignity as free persons. The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives. The State cannot demean their existence or control their destiny...The Texas statute furthers no legitimate state interest which can justify its intrusion into the personal and private life of the individual." **Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, regarding Lawrence v. Texas.**

## Rainbow Reception 2003



### A new Director for OMA

Dr. Edward Twyman has been named the new director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Ithaca College. He began his duties here on June 30.

Dr. Twyman comes to Ithaca after serving as the director of multicultural affairs at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio for twelve years. He brings excellent experience in multicultural education, commitment to student services, and a dedication to the life of the mind as an education scholar.

Please join the Office of Multicultural Affairs in welcoming Dr. Twyman as he becomes a member of our community.

*Our 1st Annual Rainbow Reception, a celebration of LGBT and allied students from the Class of 2003, was a huge success!*

*Be sure to join us in April 2004 for our 2nd Annual event.*

## Upcoming Events

**LGBT Center Open House and Social** - Tuesday, 9/9, 4-6pm. See old friends, make new ones, find out about this year's exciting line-up of guest speakers and events, and learn more about LGBT Center services. This open house also marks the first time the LGBT Center is staffed full-time on the Ithaca College campus.

**Filmmaker Su Friedrich** - Thursday, 9/18, 4- 6pm, Park Auditorium. An event with this lesbian filmmaker co-sponsored with the Department of Cinema & Photography.

### In preparation for Coming Out Day 2003:

Wednesday, 9/24, 7 pm in Klingenstein Lounge. "When, How, Why, and What Else Do I Need to Think About? Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Coming Out But Were Afraid to Ask" by Wayne Pawlowski, counselor and educator.

### Coming Out Day Lecture 2003

Thursday, 10/9, 7 pm, Textor 102. "Get the FAQs - An Update on Policy, Law and Civil Rights of LGBT People in America" by Bill Goodman, attorney and organizer.

### Film Series

### Out of the Closet and Onto the Screen: Intersections of Sexuality and Culture in Film

This series will feature documentary films in conjunction with theme month observances throughout the year. The common theme of the series focuses on experiences of LGBT people with multiple identities, across cultures, ethnicities, and genders. There will be seven films, shown on 6 different dates throughout the year:

#### Latino Heritage Month

Tues, Sept 23, 7 pm, Textor 103

*"De Colores: Lesbian & Gay Latinos - Stories of Strength, Family, and Love"*

## IC Alumna breaking new ground

Ithaca College alumni go on to great endeavors, and we now count among our LGBT alumni one who is truly a trailblazer. Beth Trainor-Hayes graduated as part of the Ithaca College Centennial Class of 1992, with a degree in Music Education. Ten years later, she and her partner Pam Trainor-Hayes journeyed to Vermont for a civil union ceremony. (Both of Beth's proud parents not only attended the ceremony, as clergy they presided over it!) Little did the couple know that almost exactly a year later, they would have the opportunity to be legally married in Canada. In fact, they literally seized the **first** opportunity to be legally married!

Upon hearing that same-sex marriages were about to be legalized in Canada this summer, they hopped in the car for a 13 hour ride to the border. With an entourage of national and international news media following close behind, they made their way to the small town of Olindaside, Ontario. Once

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Canada come home - although they might face uncertainties and discrimination - they will be as married as any people on the planet. That means, for example, the couples will identify as married on applications/forms for jobs, apartments, credit, mortgages, insurance, medical treatment, and taxes.

The good news is that couples returning home married will have a unique chance every day to role model what married same-sex couples look like, and show that marriages of same-sex couples strengthen those families and the larger community while harming no one.

While many marriages will be respected to varying degrees in various places, and even in surprising places, many married couples will also experience discrimination. Some but not all businesses, states, and others will refuse to honor these lawful marriages, along with the federal government. And couples with a member in the military, or on public assistance, or in the U.S. on a visa will face particular complexities. Couples must be prepared to live with a level of uncertainty while we continue our work to end marriage discrimination here."

**And right here in our own backyard**—The City of Ithaca Common Council voted unanimously to amend existing legislation to include expanded rights and protections for transgender people.

### Disability Awareness Month

Wed, Oct 22, 7 pm, Textor 103

*"Double the Trouble, Twice the Fun"*

### Native American Month

Monday Nov. 3, 7 pm, Textor 103

*"Two-Spirit People"*

*Films will continue this Spring; more details to follow.*



there, they made application for their marriage license and were married in a ceremony at the local Unitarian Church - making them the first American couple to obtain a legal same-sex marriage in Canada. Canadian radio and television news carried their story, as did NBC news and The Advocate.

Says Beth "Our attire wasn't too formal, since we were in a rush. We were worried [the ruling might be changed before we got there]. We were so happy. It was a beautiful ceremony... here's a society where we're equal - we think that's phenomenal." *Best wishes to Beth and Pam as they begin their married lives together!*

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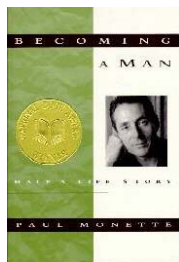
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Check out the full-color version of this  
newsletter on our

**AWARD WINNING**  
website!

[www.ithaca.edu/lgbt](http://www.ithaca.edu/lgbt)

## Book Notes by Guest Reviewer, Jillian Jacobs '04



### ***Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*** Paul Monette

Paul Monette, author of *Taking Care of Mrs. Carroll* and *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* is the author of this latest autobiography. In his prequel to *Borrowed Time*, Monette spends a great deal of the book grappling with his sexuality and “coming out of the closet.” His writing is so poignant because Monette, like so many LGBT youth, is struggling with society’s construction of what it means to be “different.” In addition to tackling issues of understanding one’s sexuality, Monette focuses on a conceivably larger and more important topic, AIDS. Through the exploration of his partner’s battle with AIDS and subsequently Monette’s own battle, the reader learns of the harsh reality faced by many young men in the LGBT community. An excellent book for any audience, however readers should note that there are some graphic sexual descriptions found throughout the book

### ***The Last Time I Wore a Dress*** Daphne Scholinski with Jane Meredith Adams

*The Last Time I Wore a Dress* details the journey through adolescence of Daphne Scholinski. Her “misfit” behavior at the age of fifteen landed her in various mental facilities across the country with a variety of diagnoses including substance abuse and gender identity disorder. As doctors and therapists spent countless hours creating goals for Daphne such as “to wear makeup, dress more like a girl, and express sexual feelings towards boys,” Daphne knew she was different. Her tomboyish nature came naturally to her, yet posed as a threat to the psychological world. Over the course of the book, we follow Daphne through various forms of treatment and institutionalizations for a diagnosis easily deemed as socially constructed. Although Scholinski leads a difficult life throughout her teenage years, her ability to stay true to herself and her feelings prove to be an inspiration to readers grappling with similar gender identity issues.

