

Dohrn: "Just like the communities we live in, the courts are waking up to the truth about lesbian and gay parents and our families. Decisions like this give us hope that the law will catch up to reality and do away with the discriminatory barriers that divide us and harm our children."

**MARYLAND**

A nun and priest forced last July to end their ministry to gay men and lesbians were ordered by the Vatican in late May to stop speaking publicly about their work or the decision to discipline them, reports The Associated Press.

Although they obeyed the order to end their ministry of more than 20 years, both Sister Jeanne Gramick and the Rev. Robert Nugent have spoken out about the church's decision.

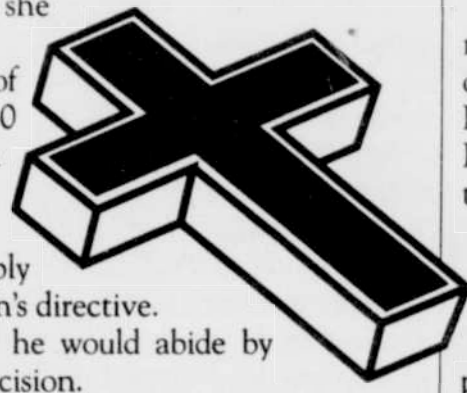
Gramick, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, said she would continue to speak out.

"I choose to obey the voice of God within me, and in this instance, the voice of God is saying that I should not collaborate with my own oppression," she said.

A member of the order for 40 years, Gramick could be dismissed if she does not comply with the Vatican's directive.

Nugent said he would abide by the Vatican's decision.

Gramick and Nugent co-founded New Ways Ministry in 1977 in Mount Rainier, a town near the border of the District of Columbia. They ministered to gay men and lesbians, held retreats, published works on homosexuality and the Catholic Church, and held workshops around the country.



**NATIONAL**

Dr. John Hensala, a psychiatrist, made a deal with the Air Force in 1986. In exchange for his medical training, Hensala agreed to serve four years in the Air Force and entered the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program.

The Air Force paid for his training at Northwestern and Yale universities. Hensala served 20 weeks of active duty over a four year period. The Air Force deferred his active duty service during his three-year residency at Yale and a two-year fellowship at the University of California at San Francisco.

In 1994, days after the Air Force informed him that his active duty would begin the next year, Hensala announced he is gay. He was discharged and ordered to repay more than \$70,000 for the cost of his education.

Hensala responded to the demand for repayment by filing a lawsuit against the Pentagon on May 18.

According to The Associated Press, this may be the first such lawsuit ever filed against the Pentagon. Dozens of others who have been discharged from the military for being gay have faced similar demands for repayment, including former Naval Academy student Tommie Lee Watkins Jr., whose story was reported in the June 2 issue of *Just Out*.

Hensala claims he did not know he was gay when he joined the Air Force. The Air Force maintains that Hensala intentionally timed his announcement to get out of his military obligation. Hensala insists, however, that he is willing to rejoin the Air Force.

"There were a lot of elements I really liked," he said. "I wanted to serve, but I didn't feel I could abide by a policy that was bad for my own mental health."

**PUERTO RICO**

Declaring a determination to "take whatever steps necessary" to eliminate the commonwealth's sodomy law, the American Civil Liberties Union announced May 22 it will appeal to the Puerto Rico Supreme Court if an appellate court does not reverse its ruling dismissing a major legal challenge to the island's "crime against nature" law.

"From time to time, we see deeply misguided decisions like this. In this particular case, the court's decision isn't just conservative interpretation of the law. It's legally inaccurate and incorrect," said Michael Adams, associate director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project and lead attorney in the case. "We will take whatever steps necessary to repeal this law, but first we want to give the appellate court another chance to look at it."

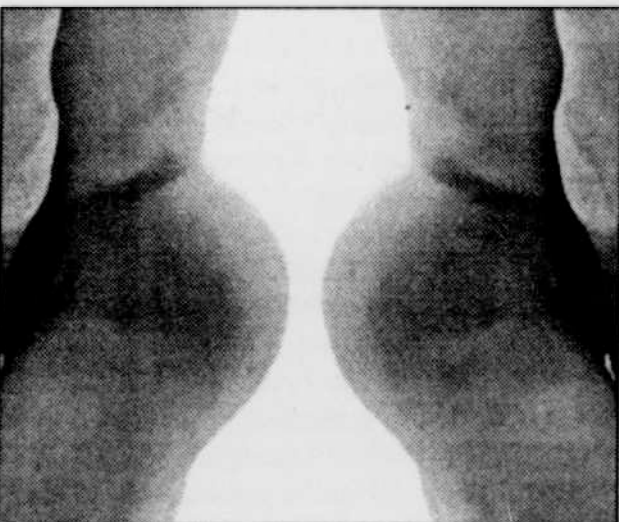
By a 2-1 vote, the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals dismissed the ACLU's challenge to the sodomy law. The court said no citizen could show that they are directly impacted by the law and that the law does not jeopardize any citizen's constitutional rights.

"Many of us were particularly baffled by the notion that Puerto Rico's sodomy law does not directly affect our people," said Janice Gutierrez Lacourt, executive director of the ACLU of Puerto Rico. "In fact, this law is a clear danger to every lesbian and gay man in Puerto Rico."

Puerto Rico's sodomy law forbids private, consensual sexual intercourse between people of the same sex. It also prohibits private, consensual anal sex, regardless of whether the couple is heterosexual or homosexual. Violations are a felony, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 or as many as 10 years in prison.

The Puerto Rico Department of Justice has announced that it intends to enforce the sodomy law if police provide evidence of violations.

The ACLU lawsuit contends that the sodomy law violates the commonwealth and federal constitutions by criminalizing private, consensual, noncommercial intimacy between adults. The ACLU has used this argument successfully against several state laws in recent years.



Earlier this month, dozens of people marched through downtown San Juan demanding that lawmakers do away with the sodomy law.

Gay rights advocates have been lobbying lawmakers to change the law, but no one is willing to sponsor the legislation needed to do so.

Called the "Decade of Reclaiming the Streets with Pride March," the demonstration wound through the Condado tourist district. A rally was held in Luis Muñoz Rivera Park.

"We demand peace for the lesbians, homosexuals, bisexuals, transsexuals and transgendered who are bombarded with taunts, contaminated by homophobia, abused by violence," Rainbow Pride spokeswoman Amparo Fidalgo told the crowd.

Compiled by KRISTINE CHATWOOD, a Portland-based free-lance writer and longtime *Just Out* contributor.

**What Makes a Gay Soul Unique?**  
An 8 Week Group for Gay Men on a Spiritual Journey

Summer: Thursdays July 13th - August 31st  
Fall: Tuesdays October 3rd - November 21st

Individual Guidance Also Available

Dale Rhodes, M.S., M.A. Spiritual Director  
Interfaith Spiritual Center (503) 289-4103  
www.hometown.aol.com/djrho5/webpage.html

Your fresh flower professionals

**JACKSON'S FLOWERS**

3804 N. E. Sandy Blvd. Portland, OR 97232  
282-0657 • 1 (800) 303-0657

www.JacksonsFlowers.com

Our Hands Move Hearts™

**PALM SPRINGS**  
Serving your real estate needs for...

CONDOS • VACATION HOMES  
HOTEL PROPERTIES  
APARTMENT BLDGS.

**GREG GRAY**  
(760) 833-5434

Tarbelle REALTORS 211 E. Palm Canyon Palm Springs, CA 92264

"MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE TODAY!"

**KBOO** PORTLAND'S ONLY INDEPENDENT • NONCOMMERCIAL LISTENER-SPONSORED COMMUNITY RADIO STATION

Tune in for This Way Out  
6 p.m. Tuesdays

Queer, Queer World  
9:30 a.m. Thursdays

90.7 FM PORTLAND • 92.7 COLUMBIA GORGE • 100.7 WILLAMETTE VALLEY

www.citysearch.com/pdx/rosecityvet

**Rose City VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

232-3105

member PABA

**UNWANTED HAIR GONE LASER WORKS!!!**

As seen on AM Northwest

- Chin or Neck: \$89.95
- Upper Lip: \$89.95
- Back: \$134.95
- Bikini Line: \$89.95
- Underarms: \$89.95
- Upper Legs: \$149.95
- Lower Legs: \$139.95

(Minimum 3 treatments per area usually required)

**LASER ~ WORKS!**  
HAIR REMOVAL AND SKIN REJUVENATION CLINICS  
503-244-8600 OR 888-452-1610