

**NATIONAL news**



U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., wants answers about the White House's backroom deal with the Salvation Army

Nadler and U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee, say they consistently have been stonewalled by the White House in their attempts to obtain information about the meetings, who attended and authorized them and what secret deals were made. They contacted the GAO in order to use that agency's statutory authority to investigate wrongdoing by the executive branch.

"It is clear that the White House wishes that this whole issue would just be forgotten, after being forced to admit more and more each day after initial denials," Nadler said. "But what is reported to have happened in those meetings—the brokering of our nation's civil rights laws in a backroom—is far too important to let go with still so many unresolved questions."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has expressed concern about the title of an upcoming *Nightline* series on the lives of gay and lesbian people in the United States. "A Matter of Choice?"—announced July 23 during the Television Critics Association press tour in Pasadena, Calif.—is scheduled to air in late September.

"GLAAD is confident that ABC News will fulfill this series' potential and reflect the diversity of the lesbian and gay community in fair and accurate manner," said Cathy Renna, news media director. "But... 'A Matter of Choice?' misrepresents the nature of sexual orientation and perpetuates the outdated but still-harmful stereotype that one's sexual orientation is merely a simple choice. While the standard 'form of a question' title may work in a press release, framing a five-part series in such a sensational way threatens to taint the experience for viewers."

*Nightline* executive producer Tom Bettag issued a swift response July 24, promising the title was picked "after considerable thought

and discussion with many people." ABC News already has received a large number of letters about the issue.

"As we worked on this series... it became evident that there was a clear link between opinions about the matter of choice and attitudes towards gay Americans," Bettag wrote. "Though many in the gay community may be convinced the question has been answered, many people still argue about whether science has resolved this, whether religion has resolved this."

**RHODE ISLAND**

Rhode Island became the second state in the nation—following Minnesota in 1993—to adopt a nondiscrimination law that clearly prohibits discrimination against trans people in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. The law, passed July 17, amends all of the state's nondiscrimination laws to ensure trans people who face discrimination may seek redress in the form of injunctive relief and damages.

"The passage of this long-overdue law is a crucial step in the struggle to make clear that discrimination based on gender difference and stereotypes is wrong," said Kate Monteiro, Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights president. "We're proud of the... Legislature's continuing commitment to assure all Rhode Islanders are afforded basic human rights and treated with dignity and respect."

The statute adds the phrase "gender identity or expression" to the state's nondiscrimination laws. It defines "gender identity or expression" as including "a person's actual or perceived gender as well as a person's gender identity, gender-related self-image, gender-related appearance or gender-related expression, whether or not that gender identity, gender-related self-image, gender-related appearance or gender-related expression is different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth."

The law protects a wide range of people, broadly referred to as transgender, who face discrimination in many different contexts. The law will protect, among others, individuals who are transsexual and those who cross-dress as well as anyone who does not fit widely held stereotypes of what it means to look like a man or a woman. jn

Compiled by Copy Editor JIM RADOSTA, who can be reached at jim@justout.com.



**Will You Be Shut Out When Your Partner Needs You?**

**Richard B. Schneider**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

is well versed in the special estate planning needs of the GLBT community and can help you with care and professionalism.

**FREE REPORT!**

"Gay & Lesbian Couples Face Special Challenges In Estate Planning."

What Every Gay And Lesbian Couple Should Know About Estate Planning.

Call today for your free copy.

**503.241.1215**

[www.rbsllc.com](http://www.rbsllc.com)

Law Offices of Richard B. Schneider, LLC  
2455 NW Marshall St., Suite 11 • Portland, OR 97210

**MARVIN SALLES**  
Associate Broker

- \* Innovative Marketer
- \* Experienced Buyer's Agent
- \* Attentive Listener

503.320.1271  
[www.marvinsalles.com](http://www.marvinsalles.com)

**John C. Scott**  
REAL ESTATE

**OUR CLASS TAKES ABOUT AN HOUR.  
(IT'S TINA'S FAVORITE HOUR OF THE DAY.)**



Over 23 locations in the Portland/Vancouver area!  
Visit our website or call 503-289-2209 for the class nearest you.

With Jazzercise, the original dance-fitness program you get easy to follow aerobics in a fun and friendly environment.

**PRESENT THIS AD FOR 3 FREE CLASSES!**

- No experience necessary.
- No contracts or membership fees.
- Convenient times/locations
- We fit every body.

**jazzercise**  
[www.jazzercise.com](http://www.jazzercise.com)

**Embodying the celebration of life!**

The Sanctuary:  
A Center for Yoga,  
Dharma & Healing Arts

Anusara Yoga Classes  
Private Therapeutic Yoga  
Massage Therapy  
Acupuncture  
Chanting  
One Dance

**All Genders Welcome!**

503-552-YOGA (9642)  
4515 SW Corbett Ave • Portland, OR 97201  
[dharmazone@earthlink.net](mailto:dharmazone@earthlink.net) • visit us at [www.yogajoy.net](http://www.yogajoy.net)

*We Celebrate the Diversity of All Living Beings*