

NATIONAL news

CONNECTICUT

CIVIL UNIONS NOT ENOUGH FOR CONNECTICUT COUPLES

Connecticut's decision to legalize civil unions for same-sex couples is being used in a lawsuit that seeks to force the state to allow gay couples full marriage rights.

Connecticut lawmakers legalized civil unions earlier this year, granting gay and lesbian couples the same legal rights as married couples but denying them the ability to wed. The Associated Press reported that eight couples argue in a brief filed July 28 in New Haven Superior Court that if the state is willing to grant same-sex couples all of the legal rights and privileges

anti-Asian violence was featured in an Academy Award-nominated film, *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*; and Mary Kay Henry, executive vice president of Service Employees International Union and a founding member of its Lavender Caucus.

In addition, the conference program is full of challenging and rigorous sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, film screenings, caucuses and networking sessions that deliver the skills needed for activist leaders to create change in their communities.

MILLIONS OF MEN, NONE GAY?

The D.C. *Metro Times* reported July 21 that leaders of the Millions More Movement, an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March, have been unresponsive to the sexual minorities community's requests to participate in the event scheduled for October in Washington, D.C. The situation was further exacerbated by recent anti-gay comments uttered by MMM leader the Rev. Willie Wilson, a D.C.-based pastor.

"It's way past time. We're way overdue. Black gay and lesbian folks have been involved in the black

civil rights movement from the beginning," said Alexander Robinson, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, a queer civil rights group.



Alexander Robinson, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, says support for black gays and lesbians is way overdue.

of marriage, it has no reason to bar them from actually marrying.

NATIONAL

CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration is now under way for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's 18th annual Creating Change Conference, which will be held Nov. 9 to 13 in Oakland, Calif.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists and allies are encouraged to attend. Early bird registration rate is available until Aug. 31. Attendees younger than 16 and older than 65 will be admitted without charge. The registration form is available at www.creatingchange.org.

The Creating Change Conference, sponsored and hosted by NGLTF, is the queer rights movement's annual skills-building conference, attracting thousands of activist leaders from across the nation. The program educates, challenges and supports queer activists and has a special focus on assisting community organizations to build a more racially representative movement. Creating Change returns to Oakland after the success of the 1999 conference, which drew the largest attendance to date.

The 2005 schedule boasts six accomplished plenary speakers: Loraine Hutchins, an author and activist who put the "B" into LGBT; Juba Kalamka, aka Pointfivefag, a founding member

of the "homo-hop" group Deep Dickcollective; John D'Emilio, an award-winning author, professor and founding director of the Task Force Policy Institute; Urvashi Vaid, an attorney, writer and activist who is a former executive director of NGLTF as well



Elizabeth Solomon won the right to show her pride on her license plate in the conservative state of Utah.

as the incoming executive director of the Arcus Foundation; Helen Zia, a longtime activist and author whose work on a groundbreaking case of

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