



Tennessee state Rep. Debra Maggart believes gay adoption is a child molester's ruse.

New York and Rhode Island is less certain, since the law regarding same-sex marriage in those states is considered unclear.

Michele Granda, an attorney for same-sex couples, told The Associated Press that even though states like New York may not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples themselves, couples could argue that such states wouldn't prohibit their marriages in Massachusetts. "The court identified two states where [same-sex] marriage is an option, but there may be more," she said.

Gov. Mitt Romney, a Republican whose order to enforce the little-used 1913 law sparked the ruling, said the court's decision would improve Massachusetts' standing nationally.

"We don't want Massachusetts to become the Las Vegas of same-sex marriage," he told the AP. "It's important that other states have the right to make their own determination of marriage and not follow the wrong course that our Supreme Judicial Court put us on."

TENNESSEE

Gays Adopt Children to Molest Them, Says Lawmaker

In a comment reported March 27 by Nashville's WTVF-TV, Tennessee state Rep. Debra Maggart asserts that gay couples who adopt children may do so to more easily terrorize the children sexually.

"We...have seen evidence that homosexual couples prey on young males and have, in some instances, adopted them in order to have unfettered access to subject them to a life of molestation and sexual abuse," she said.

The comment was repeated in connection with a news story involving her response to an e-mail questionnaire sent to Tennessee legislators by a Vanderbilt University student. In her response to the e-mail, Maggart, a longtime foe of gay rights, characterized homosexual couples as having "emotional dysfunctions and psychological issues" that prevent them from providing a safe and supportive family environment.

"I don't wish to discriminate against anyone, but [gays] have issues. That's my opinion," she said. "[Children] need the optimum family unit, and that is a mother and a father."

The student who sent out the questionnaire was so disturbed by Maggart's response, she shared it with the publisher of the queer newspaper *Out and About Nashville*, which broke the story.

NEW JERSEY

Former New Jersey Governor Writes *The Confession*

James McGreevey, the New Jersey governor who caused a national sensation by publicly announcing his homosexuality in 2004—and who

became a hero to many for refusing to resign his position on the spot—will tell his story in a memoir slated for publication Sept. 19.

The autobiography, to be titled *The Confession*, will detail his life and will describe the personal struggles he first revealed to the nation in his now-famous "I am a gay American" speech.

OHIO

Cincinnati Passes Landmark Anti-Bias Measure

Following the November 2004 repeal of a one-of-a-kind anti-gay law, the Cincinnati City Council voted March 15 to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in employment, housing and public accommodations. Led by Equality Cincinnati and local leaders and supported by the Human Rights Campaign, the move hopes to ensure fairness for Cincinnatians.

In November 2004, the majority of Cincinnatians repealed Article XII, which prohibited the city from passing any laws protecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The city stood alone in the United States as the only place where such laws were prohibited.

The council voted 8-1 to pass the nondiscrimination initiative. Some of Ohio's largest private corporations already prohibit this kind of discrimination, including Nationwide, NCR Corp., Owens Corning and Cooper Tire and Rubber.

Cincinnati joins 76 other jurisdictions prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. A total of 17 states and the District of Columbia prohibit sexual orientation-based discrimination, and eight also prohibit gender identity-based discrimination.

NEW YORK

Brokeback Honored at GLAAD Media Awards

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation honored *Brokeback Mountain*, David LaChapelle and others March 27 at the 17th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York.

Michael Douglas presented the award for Outstanding Wide Release Film to Ang Lee for *Brokeback Mountain*. The director received a standing ovation as he joined the actor on the stage.

The Vito Russo Award went to photographer and director David LaChapelle. The award is presented to an openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender media professional who has

made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for the community.

Producer Greg Garber received the award for Outstanding TV Journalism for a story about openly gay All-American lacrosse goalie Andrew Goldstein. Marcus Mabry, senior editor at *Newsweek*, accepted the award for Outstanding Magazine, Overall Coverage, and the Rev. Luis Barrios from *El Diario/La Prensa* received the award for Outstanding Spanish-Language Newspaper Columnist. **10**

Compiled by MARTY SMITH



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