

Marriage controversy divides America

Marriage should be exclusive to one man and one woman



Shannon Armstead
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Bush's call for an amendment to keep marriage between a man and a woman is a serious endeavor and, unfortunately, one that is needed.

The fact that over 2,500 marriage licenses that have been issued illegally in California over the past few weeks illustrates that a constitutional amendment is the only way to keep marriage as what was meant to be—a union between a man and a woman.

Some don't agree that marriage should be between members of the opposite sex. They call it biased, unfair and unequal.

Biased? Yes. Unfair and unequal? No. Marriage is not an all-inclusive institution and therefore it is biased; it includes only those who are eligible. While love and commitment are reasons why a couple may want to get married, that does not qualify them as eligible for the institution of marriage.

Throughout the ages, in every culture and religion, matrimony has joined a man and a woman exclusively. Ultimately, the purpose of marriage throughout the centuries has been to produce a family. Because men and women exclusively create offspring, marriage was developed specifically for them to do this in a more civilized fashion, rather than just procreating for the sake of population.

While marriage has become a cultural occurrence to create strong families and thus a stronger society, its origins are religious. Perhaps the most famous union was that of Adam and Eve, and with it "marriage" sprang from "religion." In religion, marriage was defined as between a man and a woman, again for the purpose of family.

While gays say religion should stay out of the issue of marriage, marriage is in itself a religious institution. Moreover, it is an institution that involves only heterosexuals. Homosexuals are not being denied any rights by being denied a marriage, because they have never had a right to marriage in the first place.

Gay activists blame conservatives and Christians for excluding them from marriage, but marriage has its roots deep in religion and culture as being the union of a man and a woman. Liberals and conservatives alike have recognized this fact. For instance, Clinton, as well as several other liberal congressmen, signed the "Defense of Marriage Act" in 1996 to keep marriage between only a man and a woman.

An amendment to the constitution is drastic but essential. Without it, the institution of marriage will continue to be stepped on by those who wish to please everyone.

Marriage was not instituted for those who are "in love." It was not created so that any relationship could be made more meaningful, so that any person could express a commitment to whomever they please. It came about for the purpose of the union of a male and a female.

If gays wish to receive benefits as a committed couple, they should try some other avenue, like civil unions, rather than trying to force themselves into an institution that they do not qualify for.

Marriage is a freedom that all Americans should enjoy



Faye Dodds
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

President Bush may think he is making a significant contribution to Americans by trying to amend a bill to the constitution preventing gays from legal marriages, but in the process he will seriously compromise the validity of other bills.

If the constitution is based on the "In God We Trust," motto, then the question must be raised: In whose God are we trusting? Was there in fact a bill specifying whose God it was written in accordance to?

Assumably, it was not written through a Buddhist point of view. So why are Buddhist marriages recognized as well as created here? Why is it okay to marry two people of a different God, but not two people of the same sex?

For example, if Buddhists are supposedly going to hell for being Buddhists and gays are supposedly going to hell for being gays, then why wouldn't both types of marriages be banned in the eyes of the constitution?

"All men are created equal." Maybe the amendment to this bill should be "except for homosexual people." Since when has discrimination become a family value?

Something just came out of focus in our country. It seems as if a liberal, independent media crew was shooting footage in Iraq of the increasingly U.S. dominated oil industry. People were and are still suffering and dying for increasingly ridiculous and profitable

causes, as the public was beginning to see, until the media's spotlight was redirected by Bush's attempt to stop the decline of his popularity among the heterosexual majority.

Humans have been blessed with more intelligence, desire to learn and passion than any other creature. Humans have agreed that it is acceptable to choose a lifelong mate. Why? Because it can also be agreed that humans can strengthen their species through choosing a well-matched candidate. Every person has the ability to be just as deep and complicated as the next, male or female.

Partners are supposed to compliment each other, equate and find optimum happiness with each other... sometimes so much that they are willing to forfeit the fact that they cannot procreate together, as in the case of homosexuals.

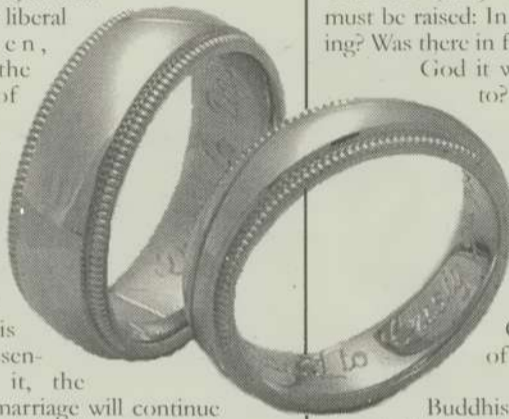
The American culture is now debating whether or not homosexuals should have the right to coo for life and be included in a "married" governmental status, as well as officiate their partnership. This would also allow for a better pension plan and benefits for the survivor if one partner was to die.

"Every man has a right to the freedom of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Why is the Bush administration, among others, trying to deny a select group of American citizens that last right?

"America, the land of the free," translates into the idea of being free to choose what one wants in life—as long as it doesn't involve homosexuality.

It is our patriotic duty to fight for the equality of all people who reside in this country. Right now, that idea is getting peddled backward.

How can any single person complete a life of happiness if others are not free to live life to the same extent, now that our president is trying to put a limit on the freedom of Americans?



Cramming vacations, naps, rewards into studying

Chiefs' Corner:



Cyndee Mady
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With the apprehension of finals next week, it is easy to get carried away by the stresses of academia.

Most people are familiar with common stress-busters such as breathing exercises, physical activity and soothing baths with essential oils. However, there are more interesting ways to conquer those furrowed brows and knot-filled shoulders.

After studying for hours on just

one subject and feeling like there is no end in sight, you may begin to crash and burn. Why not take a break? Better yet—take a five-minute vacation.

Don't worry about packing a suitcase or arranging hotel accommodations; just pick a favorite vacation spot and instant transportation to the exciting destination of choice becomes a possibility. Whether you prefer lounging on the white sandy beaches of Waikiki, skiing in the Alps or shooting craps in Las Vegas, a mini-vacation is a daydream away.

As for those knots in the shoulders—get creative. One of my favorite vacations is in a cabana overlooking the ocean in Athens, Greece, with a bottle of wine, a vine of grapes and some massage oil—oh, and did I forget to mention John Travolta?

Well, it's my fantasy vacation after all and it's much more relaxing and

fun with an interesting traveling companion. Besides, how much trouble can one get into in five minutes?

If a vivid imagination isn't your forte, a less exotic stress-buster but an effective one nonetheless, is the power nap. It may sound crazy, but it really works.

When eyes become heavy with burden and the pages of the text begins to blur, a 10 or 15-minute nap may be just the ticket to get that boost of energy necessary to ease back into the study session. Simply find a comfortable location, pull down the shades and let everything else go. A kitchen timer works great to avoid oversleeping. Sweet dreams!

If naps aren't your cup of tea—reward yourself with a cup of chamomile, which has calming elements to help de-stress. Speaking of rewards... the final stress-buster is the reward system.

Make a study checklist and establish a reasonable timetable for each task—when completed, designate a suitable reward. For example: thumb through flashcards, memorizing those Spanish verbs, then take 20 minutes off to listen to a favorite CD. Study biology objectives and lab notes, then treat yourself to Starbucks.

Sometimes having something to look forward to at the end of a grueling cram fest will help keep you focused, making the chore seem less cumbersome and allowing breaks between subjects in the process.

So take a deep breath and relax. Rest assured, it will all be over with in a couple of weeks and it will be time to spring into vacation mode over break. But if you see me with my eyes closed before break—PLEASE! DO NOT DISTURB. I just might be floating in a gondola down the canals of Venice with Johnny Depp.

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