

# Gay marriage issue strikes home

## Same-sex marriages in Oregon allow longtime partners same legal benefits

Tam Oliver  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last weekend two of my best friends were married after living together for 24 years. It was a whirlwind affair with very little planning involved because it was the first time in the state of Oregon that they were allowed to do so, and they couldn't be sure exactly how long this opportunity would exist. As Sue told me over the phone, "It just galls me to think I could be lying unconscious in the hospital, with my sister-in-law having more say in what happens to me than my partner."

Sue has more than one sister-in-law, but I know she is referring to the librarian that once lamented that it was too bad that the poor kids in her district had privileges to check out books because they always got the books so dirty. I could see where Sue certainly had a point.

So on Friday, they stood in line for four hours to get the license. Finally, license in hand, they proceeded to Keller Auditorium for the wedding. Because a large number of people were getting married that day, they were unable to have it done before closing. Luckily, a legally married couple of a more traditional nature had been invited to dinner at their house on the following Saturday evening. Leave it to the heterosexuals to know their way

around marriage ... they just happened to know of someone that could perform the ceremony on Sunday. And the rest is history. Or is it?

Sure, at sometime in the future, we'll all have a big party so all of their friends, gay and straight, can celebrate the event. There wasn't time last weekend for a big wedding. There are a bunch of indignant, mortified people in the state that want to make sure that two women who love each other and have lived together for a considerable amount of time don't have the same legal benefits that a man and woman who are married in this state have less than one second after their ceremony. Sue and Judy wanted to go on record while it was still allowed. No matter what happens, we'll still have the party.

A lot has been said about protecting the sanctity of marriage and how allowing homosexuals to marry will weaken the institution of marriage. How anyone could offer this as an argument beats the hell out of me with the divorce rates what they are. It's even possible that homosexual marriages, especially those of couples that have been together in long-term commitments without legal benefits, might have a positive influence on the statistics.

President Bush has called for an amendment to the federal Constitution denying homosexuals the rights to not only marriage but also civil unions. Would they just attach it to the XIV Amendment, which goes on about equal rights and just add "BUT NOT THESE PEOPLE?" Then in the future they could just pencil in whatever group they wanted to exclude, which could be based on whomever happened to be President at the time.

I'm sure there are people out there wondering why all of a sudden this is such an issue. The answer is that this has been an issue for a long time, even longer than Sue and Judy have been together. The answer is that there are people both gay and straight that are tired of the discrimination. Sometimes it is because your feet hurt, and you are tired of being directed to the back of the bus. Sometimes it is because you can no longer sit still and allow others to be shoved to the back of the bus. It is just about time.

Tam Oliver is a former CCC student and former section editor of *The Clackamas Print*



INTERNET PHOTO

## Feminine hygiene conspiracy unearthed?

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Ladies, it's time we address something a little on the edge, something that is killing us. They're called tampons, and they commonly contain a cancer-causing agent known as asbestos. But before everyone runs for hand towels and safety pins, the facts must be laid out.

Said to be an urban legend by many, there are enough truths to it that the investigation of whether or not there is asbestos in tampons, is necessary.

First and foremost, there is no such thing as a safe tampon. Read the instructions.

Secondly, according to urban legends, which are addressed at [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com), most tampons contain rayon (for absorbency) and dioxin (which is used in the bleaching process). The bleaching process originated because of the

fad that every hygiene product has to be white. Dioxin has been linked to endometriosis and lower sperm counts. It is toxic to the immune and respiratory system as well as the reproductive system. And here's the scary part: it is carcinogenic.

They say that a little of anything doesn't hurt. Wrong again. The Environmental Protection Agency reported that there is no acceptable level of exposure to dioxin and that repeated exposure is the most dangerous. So, when did the tampon industry assume that customers weren't repeatedly using their products? Women don't have just one period in their lifetime!

Since 1989, activists have changed the way things work all over the world ... except the United States. Everywhere else, rarely will bleached hygiene products be found. Here, according to [www.libawa.economads.com](http://www.libawa.economads.com),

the number one tampon industry is Tambrands (which produces Tampax) and denies all accusations that their tampons contain asbestos.

It seems logical that asbestos could be used in tampons—for the benefit of the manufacturer. Asbestos causes additional bleeding; therefore more tampons would be necessary. This is just another circulating, capitalist trap set to the unaware, non-researching citizens of the U.S.

But, maybe this topic is too word-sensitive. Maybe dioxin and asbestos cannot be used interchangeably. Maybe tampons are not full of asbestos.

The fact is that tampons do have dioxin in them. So, what are the alternatives? One hundred percent cotton. There is nothing safer than 100 percent cotton, which can be found at health food stores such as Wild Oats or Trader Joe's.

Users should also make sure that they time the use of each tampon. Not going over the time limit (found in the instructions) can make a significant difference in bacteria levels and exposure to chemicals in either case.

Whether the entire idea of harmful chemicals in tampons is true or not, it is so much easier to err on the side of caution. Buy cotton tampons even if it all seems like a fluke. Don't use a tampon for too long a period of time, even if it is the safest 100 percent cotton kind that can be found.

Nobody should be suing McDonald's for what they had a choice of eating every day of their life. And nobody should be harmed as a result of neglecting to research important health information that is passed on.

Somebody had to say it.



INTERNET PHOTO

Many "myths" have claimed that Tampax and other popular brands of feminine hygiene products put the carcinogen asbestos in their products—The question becomes, is there any truth to the rumor?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JESSE LAMOND CLACKAMAS PRINT

The limited tradition of marriage to one man and one woman clouds omnipresent civil rights issues.

## Letters to the Editor

### Graffiti not best solution to settle differences in students' beliefs

Jesus, in one of his simplest and wisest statements, said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." His followers among the campus community should obey this command.

Presumably, Christians on campus would be annoyed if someone defaced a poster they had created, submitted to ASG for posting approval, and taped to a wall somewhere. Even if the defacement were done with good intentions—if, say, it said, "Christians! Leave your faith! It's making you ill!"—Christians would be at best annoyed and at worst angry.

Since I'm not associated with the Rainbow Club, I don't know how its members feel about the defacement of one of its posters by a Christian or Christians. (I suppose they feel at best annoyed and at worst angry.) But whoever wrote, "John 3:16" and "God [loves] all of us. He may not like what we do but he does love us" on the Rainbow Club's poster on the Pauling Hall wall, despite their good intentions, has not done unto the Rainbow Club as they would have the Rainbow Club do unto them.

And that is this: leave posters and flyers alone. If you have something to say—if, for example, you want to tell homosexuals that God loves them but will nonetheless pitch them into a lake of eternal fire for whacking off to fantasies involving their own gender—then create your own flyer, submit it to ASG for posting approval, and tape it to a wall. Don't write on other people's posters, because you don't want them writing on yours.

James Bryant-Trerise  
English Instructor

### Student congratulates peer's article

I applaud Shannon Armstead's article defending the institution of marriage from homosexuals. It is important to note that 82 percent of Americans consider themselves Christian and that America was established on Christian values. As a democracy, America should not allow the will of the minority to overpower that of the majority concerning morality issues. Traditional Christian values believe homosexuality is a perversion to the natural order of life and is revealed as such in observing nature. These same Christian values have kept America more civilized than the rest of the world. Homosexual marriage is contributing to the destruction of our society and morals.

Johnny Pike  
CCC Student

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