

性權會翻譯

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Suicide Try Follows India Lesbian “Wedding”

PlanetOut Network

Wednesday, January 11, 2006 / 02:27 PM

A young woman in northern India’s Uttar Pradesh state tried to commit suicide by swallowing insecticide after family members rejected her same-sex union and beat her, according to international news reports.

The woman who was identified as Sita, took the insecticide Monday but was treated in time to save her life. She was taken to a nursing home in the region, but her whereabouts were unclear Wednesday.

The incident followed a marriage-like ceremony between Sita and another young woman, Vandana, at a temple Sunday in Meerut, northeast of Delhi. Both women---whose age was given by various news agencies as between 18 and 20 years---were reportedly beaten by their families and forcibly separated.

One news outlet, NDTV.com, reported that Vandana later said the “marriage” was a joke.

“We are a group of friends, and the two of us were very close,” the Web site quoted her as saying. “The others started teasing us, saying we should marry each other. Do girls ever marry girls?”

Vandana’s family has reportedly locked her inside the house.

Authorities in Meerut have pledged to investigate the matter, which many say highlights the plight of LGBT people in India, where homosexual activity is illegal.

印度女同志 婚禮後企圖自殺

一名印度北方烏塔帕拉德什州（Uttar Pradesh）的少女，在家人反對其同性戀情並暴力相向的情況下，試圖飲殺蟲劑自盡。

少女西塔（Sita）今年1月9日喝下殺蟲劑自殺，幸虧及時搶救而撿回一命，接著被送烏塔帕拉德什一家療養院休養，但兩天後卻下落不明。

根據多家新聞通訊社所提供的消息指出，19歲的西塔和18歲的凡黛娜（Vandana），1月8日於印度德里東北方的密拉特（Meerut）寺廟中，舉行一場類似婚禮的儀式，之後慘遭雙方的家人痛打並強行拆散，西塔便因此選擇走上絕路。

因為西塔自殺，凡黛娜成了公眾關注的焦點。根據新德里電視台（NDTV）報導，凡黛娜事後聲稱這場「婚禮」只是朋友起鬨下開的玩笑，「我們有一大群朋友，不過在這群朋友之中，我和西塔感情比較好。因為這樣，其他人居然把我們倆當成笑柄，說我們乾脆結婚算了！但是，同性之間真的可以結婚嗎？」在婚禮中當新郎的西塔則是認真的，他說「我愛凡黛娜，我要與她結婚生活在一起。」

兩個女孩都出身在教育程度和社會地位很低的家庭，他們因為同在襪子工廠工作而結識。全城對於他們的婚禮和同性戀關係議論紛紛，凡黛娜因此事被家人鎖在家中。

這起事件引起密拉特地方當局的高度關切，並表示同性婚姻是非法的，地方行政官喀里敘南（Ram Krishnan）說：「我們會對本案進行調查，包括誰應為導致女孩自殺而負責。」此話一出，再度引起關注印度同志人權人士的憂心，因為目前同性戀行為在印度仍是違法的。

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Italy gets new leader; gays may benefit

PlanetOut Network

Wednesday, April 12, 2006 / 08:45 AM

The center-left coalition led by Italy's Romano Prodi has won a very narrow victory in Sunday's national elections, according to international news reports, but the current prime minister has demanded a recount.

After claiming victory, Prodi told supporters, "We have won. We have to start uniting Italy. Now we have to focus in order to change Italy."

During his campaign, Prodi promised to introduce a civil partnership law for same-sex couples if he became prime minister.

Outgoing Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, however, has disputed the election results, saying there were "many irregularities and it's possible that we won't be able to confirm that it has been a valid vote."

The dispute over the results could last weeks.

On Tuesday, Prodi said he would not install a new government until parliament names a new president in early May. In Italy, the president gives the winner the mandate to form a new government. President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi's term expires next month.

Prodi, a former European Commission president, reportedly plans to withdraw Italian troops from the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Abortion rights and same-sex partner rights were big social issues with voters, as several thousands of pro-gay and pro-choice Italians demonstrated in the streets during the campaign. The Catholic Church also wielded its influence to try and sway voters against the two progressive causes.

The election benefited transgender candidate Vladimir Luxuria, who is nearly assured of a seat in parliament. Luxuria is a member of the Reformed Communist Party and has pledged to work for LGBT rights.

義大利變天 同志福祉受惠有望

義大利第十五屆國會大選，經過數周驗票，20 日最高法院判決由政見包括提案同性公民伴侶法的反對黨候選人普羅迪獲勝。

義大利 4 月 9-10 日舉行的國會大選投票結果，由羅馬諾·普羅迪 (Romano Prodi) 領導的中間偏左聯盟以兩萬五千票的些微票數取得勝利，普羅迪在宣佈了中間偏左聯盟的勝利之後，對支持者說：「我們贏了，現在該是整合義大利、改造義大利的時候了。」然而，即將卸任的現任總理希維歐·貝盧斯康尼 (Silvio Berlusconi) 卻對選舉結果提出質疑選舉期間違法行為充斥，並要求大選計票中心重新計票。

大選結果的爭議持續數週，直到上週末，貝盧斯康尼在他的豪宅度過復活節假期之時，仍目空一切地呼籲普羅迪接受建立短期權力共享政府的提議，否則他所領導的中間偏右聯盟將「興起強硬而積極的反對態勢，對誰都沒有好處」。普羅迪則明快地拒絕，「夠了，現在該是工作的時候，我將平靜地籌組未來的政府，而這是我們必須做的事。」他領導的工會聯盟贏得國會下議院六百三十席裡足夠運作的多數席次，在上議院也以兩席贏得多數。

貝盧斯康尼是義大利的首富，擁有超過半數的媒體，但五年來，義大利經濟幾乎零成長；選舉期間他發起口水戰策略激化選民，以這種沒有內容的仇恨式的競選策略，刺激沉默、冷淡的右翼選民出來投票，也使義大利分裂至史無前例的地步。

經過問題選票重新驗證之後，20 日義大利最高法院宣佈由普羅迪領導的中間偏左反對派「團結」聯盟贏得國會眾議院選舉多數。不過貝盧斯康尼已經放話參選義大利總統。

普羅迪曾於 11 日表示，除非國會於五月上旬任命新任總統，不然他不曾執意組成新政府。在義大利，是由總統指定及授命總理組成新政府，因此普羅迪政府在五月後半之前無法執行權力。勝選的團結聯盟較支持的現任總統卡羅·阿傑格里歐·齊安皮 (Carlo Azeglio Ciampi)，已對外宣布不尋求連任，他的任期將於 5 月 18 日屆滿。依據義大利憲法設下的時間表，新國會應在 4 月 28 日首次集會，並必須選舉出七年任期屆滿的義大利總統齊安皮的繼任人選。

大選活動期間，數千名支持同性戀和墮胎合法化的義大利民眾，走上街頭表示，墮胎權和同性婚姻權是選民關注的兩大社會議題。但立場保守的義大利天主教會卻試圖憑藉其宗教影響力，左右選民選票的流向。

根據報導，歐盟委員會前主席普羅迪，計畫由美國主導的伊拉克戰爭中撤軍。

而此次選舉結果幾乎確保了變性候選人維拉蒂門·魯朱利亞 (Vladimir Luxuria) 在國會的席位。魯朱利亞是重新組黨的義大利共產黨成員，並矢志為爭取 LGBT (女男同性戀、雙性戀、跨性別) 權利、性工作合法化而努力。

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Defiant church won't marry straight couples

Associated Press

Thursday, April 13, 2006 / 11:57 AM

MINNEAPOLIS -- A Minneapolis church has voted to stop performing civil marriages for heterosexuals because civil marriage isn't offered to same-gender couples.

"I will officiate at only religious marriages for same- and opposite-gender couples alike," said the Rev. Don Portwood of the Lyndale United Church of Christ. "I will no longer sign marriage licenses as an agent of the state of Minnesota, until the state of Minnesota recognizes the loving commitment of all couples."

The congregation's April 9 vote makes the church the second in the state to refuse to perform civil marriages. White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church made a similar stand a few years ago.

Lyndale joins a small group of churches across the country that won't perform civil marriages for male-female couples because same-sex couples aren't allowed to marry.

The 1.3 million-member United Church of Christ endorsed same-sex marriage during its national meeting last year. It made headlines this week when several broadcast and cable networks rejected a TV ad touting the denomination's gay-inclusive policy.

挑戰傳統婚姻觀念 教會拒絕為異性戀者證婚

由於美國明尼蘇達州不承認同性婚姻，因此公民婚禮（civil marriage，即西方國家中不採用宗教儀式，而由地方行政官或法官證婚的婚禮）效力不及於同性伴侶。為此，明尼阿波里斯市一間教堂的神職人員，投票決定拒絕為異性戀者證婚。

林岱爾聯合基督教會（Lyndale United Church of Christ）的牧師唐·波特伍德（Rev. Don Portwood）表示：「我會一視同仁為同性和異性伴侶主持婚禮，但僅限於宗教婚禮。不過，我將不再作為明尼蘇達州的代理人去簽署結婚證書，除非明尼蘇達州承認所有伴侶愛的承諾。」

4月9日，明尼阿波里斯市教堂神職人員集會的表決結果，使該教堂成為數年前、懷特貝爾一神信普救教堂（White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church）後，第二間拒絕主持公民婚禮的教堂。

林岱爾教堂之所以加入一群全國性、不為異性戀者主持公民婚禮的教會團體，是因為同性戀者在明州無法享有合法的婚姻權利。

去年，擁有130萬成員的聯合基督教會（United Church of Christ, UCC），在一場全國性的會議上，聲援同志婚姻。這星期，由於廣播節目和有線電視拒絕播放一則和同志政策相關、該教會支持的廣告，才使得聯合基督教會為同性婚姻背書一事成為各報新聞頭條。

< 第四篇 >

Officer in trouble for airing "Brokeback"

PlanetOut Network

Monday, April 10, 2006 / 01:15 PM

NORFOLK, Mass. -- A correctional officer faces punishment for showing the gay cowboy movie "Brokeback Mountain" to inmates at Massachusetts' largest prison, a corrections department spokeswoman said.

Massachusetts Department of Correction spokeswoman Diane Wiffin said the officer, whose name was not released, had not followed standard procedure for pre-screening the movie for excessive violence, assaults on correctional staff, nudity or explicit sexual content.

She would not reveal what discipline the officer could face.

"I want to make it clear, it wasn't the subject matter -- it was the graphic nature of the sexually explicit scenes," Wiffin said Monday.

The officer showed the movie Thursday at MCI-Norfolk, a medium-security prison about 25 miles southwest of Boston. According to Wiffin, a deputy supervisor came in as the movie was showing and asked if the officer had screened it first. He said no. Since only 20 minutes remained of the movie, the inmates were allowed to see the end, she said.

Wiffin did not know how many inmates saw the movie and did not know of any other instance in which a prison officer was disciplined over a movie.

公開播放「斷背山」 獄官惹禍上身

美國麻州政府懲矯部女發言人表示，一名負責管理麻州最大監獄的獄官，因在獄中播放同志牛仔電影「斷背山」而面臨處分。

麻州政府懲矯部門女發言人黛安·威分（Diane Wiffin）解釋道，這位未被公開姓名的官員違反了獄中播放電影的標準程序：播映影片前先審查片中過度的暴力、攻擊獄官、裸露或直接的性愛鏡頭。

她不願透露這名官員可能受到的處分為何。

威分於 10 日表示：「我要說明的是，這一切和電影主題無關，重點在於影片中赤裸呈現的性愛鏡頭。」

「MCI-Norfolk」是一間位於波士頓西南方、距其 25 英里的中等防衛（medium-security）監獄，根據威分的說法，6 日電影在該監獄播放時，代理督察剛好看到，便詢問這名官員是否事先審查過這部電影的內容，他回答沒有。威分說，當時電影只剩下 20 分鐘的長度，所以就讓受刑人把結局看完。

威分並不清楚究竟一共有多少受刑人看了「斷背山」，也不知道是否還有其他獄官因播放情節不當的電影而遭受處分。

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Bush Speech Angers Gay Americans

Tom Musbach, PlanetOut Network
Wednesday, February 2, 2005 / 08:26 PM

In a stronger attack on marriage equality this year, President George W. Bush delivered a State of the Union speech on Wednesday that specifically called for a constitutional amendment to forbid marriage rights for same-sex couples, and many LGBT groups reacted with anger.

"Because marriage is a sacred institution and the foundation of society, it should not be redefined by activist judges," the president said. "For the good of families, children and society, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage."

Last year, he alluded to same-sex marriage, particularly the Massachusetts ruling to grant marriage equality, by saying, "If judges insist on forcing their arbitrary will upon the people, the only alternative left to the people would be the constitutional process."

The return of the marriage issue during Wednesday's speech, delivered on Groundhog Day, struck some Democrats and LGBT Americans as a troubling repetition, recalling the film "Groundhog Day." Others were disappointed because he contradicted his recent remarks that a proposed amendment may not be necessary this year, as long as the federal Defense of Marriage Act remains in effect.

"Once again, President Bush contradicts himself," said Steven Fisher, communications director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "Sadly, once again he valued the extremism of a few over the greater good of protecting all Americans, including LGBT families whose well-being are jeopardized by this proposal."

"History will severely judge any president who casually calls for such a radical rewriting of our Constitution without thought of its consequences," said Dave Noble, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats. "This president lacks the comprehension of the struggles faced by American families due to his discriminatory policies."

In his lead-in to the marriage issue, the president invoked themes of family, faith and values, which conservative political blogger Andrew Sullivan called an "appalling" transition.

"So I -- as a gay person -- am somehow a threat to 'family and faith'? How dare he?" Sullivan wrote. "What about *my* family and *my* faith?"

In 2004, a proposed constitutional amendment to bar same-sex couples from marrying failed in both the Senate and the House.

President Bush also called for the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which the HRC commended on Wednesday night.

"If a sliver of hope could be gleaned from his words tonight," Fisher said, "it was in his stated commitment to helping those with HIV/AIDS, and we will work with him to make the fight against this disease as strong as possible. We hope his actions match his words."

布希反同性婚姻演說 震怒美國同志

美國總統布希 2 月 2 日發表國情咨文演說，特別要求憲法修正案明文禁止同性婚姻權。如此剝奪同性婚姻權利的作法，引起 LGBT（女男同性戀、雙性戀、跨性別）同志團體極大的憤怒。

布希說：「婚姻不僅是神聖的制度，同時也是社會的基礎，它不應被運動者重新定義；為了家庭、小孩和社會好，我支持憲法修正以捍衛婚姻制度。」

去年，當麻州最高法院授予同志婚姻平等權時，布希曾特別表示：「如果麻州法官堅持獨斷執行法令，那麼人民剩下的唯一選擇就是訴諸憲改程序。」

這篇國情咨文演說發表於 2 月 2 日星期三北美的「土撥鼠節」。席間和同志婚姻相關的議題一再被提起，令民主黨員和同志團體的成員不堪其擾，當時的處境使其聯想到電影今天暫時停止（Groundhog Day：原意即為土撥鼠節）中的類似情節。布希總統近來在言論中聲明，只要聯邦婚姻保護法案仍有效，婚姻修正法案就不會在今年進入司法議程。然而事實證明，布希總統前後矛盾的言論也同樣令人感到失望。

人權鬥陣（Human Rights Campaign，簡稱 HRC）的公關主任史蒂芬費雪（Steven Fisher）說：「布希總統又再一次自打嘴巴。此修正案嚴重危及多數美國人民的利益，包括同志家庭在內，但總統卻只重視相對少數人民的極端價值，這真的很可悲！」

國家石牆民主黨人（National Stonewall Democrats，簡稱 NSD）的執行長戴維諾波（Dave Noble）說：「對於以激進手段，任意要求修憲卻又不考慮其後果的總統，歷史將給予最嚴厲的批判。由於布希的歧視政策，使得他對於美國家庭所面臨的困境一無所知。」

布希總統企圖在其引導的同性婚姻議題上，將核心論點訴諸於個人家庭、信仰及價值觀。對此，中間偏右的政治網誌作者安德魯蘇立文（Andrew Sullivan），形容布希的說法為「駭人的」言論變革。「所以我—身為同志—對於家庭和信仰的中心思想就會造成威脅？他怎麼能這麼說？」蘇立文寫道。「那麼『我自己的』家庭和信仰呢？」

參、眾兩議院在 2004 年，駁回當時所提出禁止同性婚姻權利的修正法案。

不過，布希總統要求萊恩懷特關懷法案（Ryan White CARE Act）重新過關的呼籲，倒是令週三晚間出席的人權運動人士稱讚不已。費雪回應道：「如果布希總統今晚的演說真有一絲可信之處，那大概只有他承諾會幫助愛滋病患者而已。倘若如此，我們人權運動的成員一定會竭盡所能和他站在同一陣線上，對抗愛滋。我們希望總統能言出必行。」

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Marriage Rights for Same-sex Couples

The legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts in 2004 touched off a backlash that started with the U.S. general election last November, and marriage equality advocates are digging in for a long fight.

During the election, ballot measures to constitutionally ban gays from marrying passed in all 11 states they were offered. Other states have threatened to follow suit during the next election.

The Bay State's move also rallied opponents to get behind the Federal Marriage Amendment, which failed in 2004, but conservatives have promised to bring it back.

The Massachusetts wedding parade followed earlier spurts of same-sex marriages in other parts of the country, including San Francisco, Portland, Ore., and New Paltz, N.Y. The nearly 4,000 marriages that took place for a month in San Francisco were nullified by the California Supreme Court six months later.

Advocates for marriage equality in the United States are now looking to the courts, as constitutional challenges are making their way through legal systems in several states, including California, New York, Washington and New Jersey.

In other parts of the world, same-sex unions have recently gained more ground. Canada is now poised to become the third country---behind Belgium and the Netherlands---to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples. A recent high court ruling in Canada has paved the way for legislation, expected later this year, granting recognition to civil same-sex marriages.

Spain may also soon join the elite ranks of countries that permit same-sex couples to marry. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero was elected in 2004 with a promise to enact liberal social changes. His Socialist government approved a bill to legalize same-sex marriages, and the Parliament is expected to debate the bill in February.

Polls have shown that young people are far more supportive of equal marriage rights than their elders. Advocates stress, however, that social change takes time and that a widespread victory for marriage equality is likely to occur within the next 10-20 years.

同性婚姻權

美國麻州在 2004 年，將同性婚姻合法化一舉，引發一連串政治和社會上的變革，迎面而來的第一個衝擊即是 11 月的美國總統大選。時至今日，主張婚姻平權的人士仍為了爭取同性婚姻的合法化，進行長期奮戰。

美國大選期間，主張以選票傳達反對同性婚姻聲音的方式，成功獲得了 11 州的

支持。其餘未獲支持的州則語帶威脅地表示，下回大選將捲土重來，以選票說明其反同性婚姻的主張。

麻州將同性婚姻合法化一舉，也同時凝聚了一群反同性婚姻的人士，齊聲聲援由美國聯邦參議院所提出的聯邦憲法婚姻修正案。雖然參議院在 2004 年否決了此案，但反同性婚姻的保守人士卻矢志帶著修正案重返參議院殿堂。

早期要求同性婚姻的聲浪，透過婚禮遊行的方式，在美國各州如雨後春筍般急速蔓延著，諸如洛杉磯、奧勒岡的波特蘭以及紐約的紐普茲，隨後麻州也踏上相同的腳步。洛杉磯曾經在一個月內，舉辦了將近 4000 場同志婚禮，卻不幸地在 6 個月之後，經加州最高法院告知其婚約無效。

正當美國各州，包括加州、紐約、華盛頓和紐澤西，在憲法上解除對同性婚姻的質疑，進入司法議程之際，主張婚姻平等的人士則將公權力訴諸法庭。

除了美國，其他國家近來在同性婚姻爭取上，也有大幅度進展。繼比利時和荷蘭之後，加拿大也即將成第三個為同性婚姻立法的國家。最近加拿大高等法院針對此議題提出說明，表示加拿大國會有權重新定義何謂「婚姻」，此舉無疑是為同性婚姻相關立法鋪路。如此一來，加拿大可望在一年之後，在法定上承認同性婚姻的合法性。

西班牙也有可能不久之後，加入同性婚姻合法化國家的行列。喬瑟路易斯在 2004 年當選西班牙首相之後，便承諾著手制定和自由議題相關的政策。喬瑟路易斯所屬的社會主義政府，已通過同性婚姻合法化的法案，西班牙國會預計在 2 月針對這項法案進行討論。

民調顯示，支持婚姻平權的，年輕人較年長一輩的人來的多。不過，提倡同性婚姻的人士則強調，社會變革需要的是時間，並非一蹴可幾，而且，在未來 10 到 20 年之內，婚姻平權的勝利之聲可能遍佈全世界。

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Employment Nondiscrimination

The employment discrimination case that received the most attention in recent months has been Cirque du Soleil's firing of an HIV-positive gymnast from a Las Vegas show.

Gymnast Matthew Cusick was fired from "Mystere" in the spring of 2003, and [Lambda Legal filed a formal complaint](#) with the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC) in July 2003.

The firing shocked many fans of Cirque du Soleil, whose marketers court the GLBT community for the entertaining and acrobatic shows around the world. Several groups organized protests against the company's touring shows in the fall of 2003.

In February 2004, Cirque du Soleil announced it had changed its hiring policies, and it announced intentions to negotiate a rehire for Cusick.

The EEOC complain was finally settled on April 22, 2004, when Cirque du Soleil agreed to pay \$600,000 to Matthew Cusick, who ultimately decided not to return to "Mystere." It is the largest HIV discrimination settlement of its kind, according to Lambda Legal.

Federal laws protect every American from job discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin and disability. However, they say nothing about discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Twelve states and dozens of municipalities have chosen to include sexual orientation in their own employment discrimination statutes.

Calling civil rights the "unfinished business of America," Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., has championed the federal Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) for years in the Senate. But the measure has never come close to passing both chambers of Congress.

反就業歧視

這幾個月來，最受眾人關注的就業歧視案例，是一名愛滋病呈陽性反應的體操運動員，遭其太陽馬戲團的雇主，由拉斯維加斯秀場開除。

2003 年春天，體操運動員馬修庫斯克被踢出太陽馬戲團的創作「秘密」。2003 年 7 月，Lambda Legal 向美國的平等就業機會委員會提出控訴。

許多太陽馬戲團的支持觀眾，為此革職風波感到相當震驚。馬戲團巡迴全球的娛樂和特技表演機會，都是經由該團的行銷人員，和性別異類權益團體交涉、尋求贊助後得來的。有些團體甚至組織動員，抗議馬戲團於 2003 年秋季的巡迴演出。

2004 年 2 月，太陽馬戲團宣布已針對聘雇政策作出調整，並打算召庫斯克歸隊。

2004 年 4 月 22 日，太陽馬戲團同意賠償庫斯克 60 萬，這起革職事件才宣告落幕，但庫斯克已決定不再重回「秘密」戲團。根據 Lambda Legal 的說法，庫斯克因染患愛滋而遭革職的事件，是同類型就業歧視案例中，最引發爭議的。

美國聯邦法律在種族、宗教、性別、出生地所在國及身心障礙問題上，保障所有美國人工作的權利、不受歧視，但性傾向則不在保障範圍內。美國 12 州和許多自治城市甚至決定將求職者的性傾向，作為評估聘僱與否的標準。

美國參議員泰德甘迺迪這幾年來在參議院，不斷爭取通過「反就業歧視法案」，並稱公民權利的爭取是「美國未盡的義務」，然而，國會的參、眾議院卻同聲一氣，抵制此議案。

Transgender leader honored at Harvard

PlanetOut Network

Tuesday, May 9, 2006 / 02:06 PM

A Harvard University group has named transgender advocate Mara Keisling as the Outstanding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Person of the Year, and she has been invited to address the university on LGBT issues.

Keisling, who is executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, was to give the annual Papadopoulos Lecture on Tuesday.

"It is an honor to be recognized with this award from one of the pre-eminent institutions of higher learning," said Keisling. "It speaks to just how far the movement for transgender civil rights has come in the past decade. I'm proud to be asked to speak to the Harvard community about the victories transgender advocates have made -- and continue to make -- against tremendous odds."

In the past week, both Vermont and Hawaii passed laws protecting the civil rights of transgender people.

"In four short years, we have increased sixfold the percentage of people in the United States who live in jurisdictions where legislatures have enacted protections for people based on gender identity and expression," said Keisling, according to an excerpt of her Tuesday speech provided to PlanetOut. "From 5 percent to 31 percent since the beginning of 2002 -- that is remarkable."

Keisling, a transgender woman and parent who did graduate work at Harvard, is the founding director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. She hails from Pennsylvania and has 25 years of professional experience in social marketing and opinion research.

Keisling's award was given by the Harvard Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Supporters Alliance. Past honorees include Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer and California state Sen. Sheila Kuehl.

變性人領袖 於哈佛大學獲頒榮譽獎項

哈佛大學的「LGBT支持者聯盟」(Harvard Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Supporters Alliance)提名聲援變性人的瑪拉·克思琳(Mara Keisling)為年度最傑出的LGBT人士,同時她還應邀為哈佛大學進行LGBT相關議題的演講。

克思琳目前是「國家變性人平權中心」(National Center for Transgender Equality)的總經理。她已於週二在哈佛大學發表一年一度關於帕帕朵波洛斯(Papadopoulos)的專題演講。

克思琳說:「從全球知名的高等教育機構獲頒這個獎項是極大的榮譽。這個獎項正好說明了變性人在過去十年內,爭取公民權利的發展及變遷。我很榮幸能夠獲邀至哈佛大學演講關於長期以來,變性文化對抗主流優勢文化的過程。我也相信,今日變性文化的勝利將繼續持續下去。」

過去幾週，美國的佛蒙特州和夏威夷已相繼通過保障變性人公民權利的法律。

「出櫃」(PlanetOut)網站節錄一段克思琳週二的演說內容：「在美國，根據性別認同和取向所制定的法律，保護了居住於特定司法管轄區的民眾。受到法律保障的變性民眾自 2002 年初的 5 個百分點，增加到 2006 年的 31 個百分點。短短四年間成長了六倍之多，這是個相當驚人的數字。」

畢業於哈佛的變性母親克斯琳，為「國家變性人平權中心」的創辦經理。她來自賓州，擁有 25 年社會行銷和輿論研究的專業經驗。

克思琳的獎項是由哈佛大學的「LGBT 支持者聯盟」所頒發。過去的受獎者有瑪格瑞斯．凱麥梅爾(Margarethe Cammermeyer)和加州參議員雪拉．庫何(Sheila Kuehl)。

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District OKs transgender teacher's return

John Curran, Associated Press

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 / 09:34 AM

EAGLESWOOD TOWNSHIP, N.J. -- To students at Eagleswood Elementary School, she used to be Mr. McBeth. Now, after undergoing a sex change, 71-year-old Lily McBeth is ready to return to teaching as Miss McBeth.

Despite criticism from parents, the school board on Monday stood by its decision to allow McBeth to resume working as a substitute teacher.

After two hours of public debate and a private meeting with McBeth and her lawyer, the board took no action on calls by several parents to bar McBeth from returning to the school where she taught for five years before becoming a woman.

"It was magnificent," McBeth said afterward. "You saw democracy in action."

McBeth, a retired sales executive who was married for 33 years and had three children, underwent gender reassignment surgery last year and re-applied for her job under her new name.

McBeth on Monday told the school board and the crowd that she loves teaching and children, and looks forward to returning to the classroom.

"This is not something I got into just as a whim," she said.

Several parents said children in the school -- which consists of kindergarten through sixth grade -- were not old enough to understand the concept of changing one's gender.

"I, as a parent, am appalled to have this issue brought into my child's psychology," Steve Bond said.

Vincent Mustacchio predicted "chaos" at the school when the students learned of McBeth's surgery.

Young children will be confused by the conflicting appearance of McBeth, who has a deep voice and masculine features but otherwise looks like a woman, other parents said.

"I will not allow you to put my kids in a petri dish and hope it all turns out fine," said Mark Schnepf, who had taken out an ad in a local newspaper urging parents to turn out for the meeting.

Several people spoke in support of McBeth, including three transgender people, two former students of McBeth's and a handful of others, saying that the fact that she is a good teacher was more important than whether she appears as a man or a woman in class.

"There's really nothing to fear because a person is transgender," said Karina Mari, a mother of three school-age children who said she has transgender relatives.

School board attorney Paul Carr said McBeth was a good teacher who had received favorable reviews during her tenure as a substitute.

Earlier this month, the board voted 4-1 to accept her application to return to the classroom.

It's unclear how soon McBeth will resume teaching, Carr said. That depends on the need for substitutes and the availability of certified teachers who get priority when a spot opens up, he said.

Steven Goldstein, chairman of Garden State Equality, a gay rights advocacy group supporting McBeth's bid to resume teaching, called the school board's action historic.

變性教師 紐澤西鎮上小學重拾教鞭

鷹木小學 (Eagleswood Elementary School) 位於美國紐澤西州的鷹木鎮上。「她」曾經是這所學校學生眼中的麥克白先生。如今，年屆 71 歲的莉莉·麥克白 (Lily McBeth)，在經過變性手術之後，已準備好以麥克白小姐的全新身份，重拾教鞭。

即便家長的批評聲浪不斷，學校的董事會仍於週一決議讓麥克白重返教職，擔任學校的代課老師。

學校董事會在歷經 2 小時公開討論、和麥克白及其律師會談之後，對於許多家長們要求將麥克白拒於校門外的請求，一概不予理會。麥克白在變性之前已於鷹木小學任職長達五年之久。

麥克白事後表示：「這真是太好了，民主機制的運作完全體現於學校決策的過程中。」

麥克白是一位已退休的業務主管，結婚 33 年並育有 3 位子女。她於去年進行變性手術，並改名為莉莉·麥克白，重新申請工作。

麥克白於週一向學校董事會及民眾表達她對教育孩童的熱情，並期待重返教學崗位。

她說：「教學絕不是我一時興起的想法而已。」

鷹木小學除了開設小學一到六年級的課程之外，還附設學齡前幼稚園的教育。許多家長憂心地表示，小孩子的心智根本不足以成熟到能夠理解變性的觀念。

史帝夫·龐德（Steve Bond）說：「身為父母親，我真不敢相信我的孩子這麼小就要被灌輸變性的觀念。」

文森·馬斯塔切歐（Vincent Mustacchio）預測，當學生得知麥克白動過變性手術後，肯定會讓全校陷入一片「混亂」。

有的家長則認為，小孩子一定會對麥克白帶有低沉嗓音等男性特質、但卻擁有女性的外貌感到困惑。

馬克·史內普（Mark Schnepf）先前取出一則刊登在當地報紙上的廣告，力促家長們出席學校董事會、麥克白和其律師的會談。他說：「我不會讓你們把我的孩子當成白老鼠，更別奢望要我相信這一切都會沒事。」

但另一方面，也有一群民眾聲援麥克白，包括了三位變性人士、兩位麥克白先前的學生，和一些不知名的人士。他們解釋道，麥克白是為好老師的事實遠比她實際的性別更重要。

凱瑞娜·瑪莉（Karina Mari）是三個正在小學唸書孩子的母親，而且，她的親戚中也有人變性人：「真的沒有必要因為對方是變性人就心生恐懼。」

學校董事會律師保羅卡爾（Paul Carr）表示，麥克白是位優良教師，她於代課老師任期內已獲得良好的評價。

日前，董事會最後以 4 比 1 的多數票，通過了麥克白的教職申請。

卡爾說目前還不確定麥克白多久以後能夠重新任教，這一切得視學校對代課教師的需求，及取得正式教師資格者錄取的優先順序、有職缺與否而定。

「花園州平權組織」（Garden State Equality，花園州是美國新澤西州別名）是美國提倡同志權利的團體，他們在這起事件中，支持麥克白重返教職所做的努力。史蒂芬·高史丹（Steven Goldstein）身為此組織的主席，形容學校董事會的決定，從歷史脈絡看來，具有極大的意義。

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Armed gang attacks British gay bar

[Gay.com U.K.](#)

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 / 02:34 PM

An armed gang attacked a gay bar in the northern England city of Sheffield over the weekend, terrifying patrons and trashing the venue in what police have described as a homophobic attack.

According to South Yorkshire police, five men entered Club X-es in Sheffield early Sunday morning with weapons, smashing windows, breaking beer pumps and threatening drinkers.

Three people were hurt in the attack, which took place in the Attercliffe part of the city, according to the city's Star newspaper.

Police said they thought the attack could only be motivated by anti-gay sentiment.

"So far, the only suggested motive is that this was a homophobic attack on the people in the club or those running it," Detective Nathan Hoole said.

He added that the gang shouted insults at patrons and set out to deliberately cause damage to the bar. The attack was thought to be over within minutes.

"We believe they came with the intention of causing damage and that people who got in their way got assaulted," he said. "They came brandishing weapons, so this was pre-planned. This is being treated extremely seriously."

武裝歹徒襲擊英國同志酒吧

一群武裝歹徒於二月底周末假期，持槍襲擊一間位於英國北部雪菲爾（Sheffield）的同志酒吧。歹徒不僅威嚇顧客，還蓄意破壞這間酒吧，因此警方認定這起事件為恐同攻擊。

根據南約克郡警方的說法，這幫歹徒由五名男子所組成。他們一早於2月26日週日凌晨攜帶武器進入位於薛菲爾德的X-es酒吧（Club X-es）後，不但擊碎店內的窗戶、砸破所有啤酒桶，並恐嚇店裡的顧客。雪菲爾的城市星報指出，有三人在這起發生於雪菲爾的亞特克里福區（Attercliffe）的攻擊事件中受傷。

警方認為，這起攻擊事件應是肇因於歹徒的反同志情緒。「目前研判，歹徒襲擊酒吧的唯一動機應是導因於他們對店內顧客或經營者的恐同情緒。」刑警探員納森·胡爾（Detective Nathan Hoole）表示，歹徒大聲咆哮辱罵顧客後，便開始對這間酒吧進行破壞。整個攻擊事件持續了數分鐘。「我們認為歹徒是蓄意破壞這間酒吧，而且凡是擋到他們去路的顧客，都遭受攻擊。歹徒一開始手中揮舞著槍械進入酒吧，所以說，他們早就計畫好了這一切。本案將受到極度重視。」

< 第十一篇 >

Mary Cheney breaks silence on TV

PlanetOut Network

Thursday, May 4, 2006 / 04:10 PM

Mary Cheney, whose public silence as the lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney has been much discussed among LGBT Americans, finally spoke up during an interview with ABC News anchorwoman Diane Sawyer.

"I struggled with my decision to stay on the 2004 campaign," Cheney said, in part because of President Bush's vocal support for defending the "sanctity of marriage" by excluding same-sex couples.

The interview, to air Thursday evening on "Primetime," covered such topics as Cheney's coming out to her family, her longtime partner, Heather Poe, and her new political memoir, "Now It's My Turn."

ABC News posted several quotes from the interview on its Web site in advance of the "Primetime" airing.

Although a senior campaign adviser, Cheney said, she did not attend Bush's 2004 State of the Union address because of his planned remarks supporting an amendment to the Constitution to ban same-sex couples from marrying.

While she discussed this struggle with her family at the time, she made no public statement about her disagreement on the issue, and many activists assailed her silence as hypocrisy.

In 2004, activists John Aravosis and Robin Tyler, who co-chair the Web site dontamend.com, started the dearmary.com project for people to post letters to Cheney, urging her to speak in favor of marriage equality. The activists started an Internet ad campaign later that year, which included the message: "Dick's daughter sold out to help Dick run again."

Cheney left politics last year to work for AOL.

She said in the ABC interview that she considers her 14-year relationship with Poe a marriage.

"We have built a home and a life together," she said. "I hope I get to spend the rest of my life with her. The way I look at it, is we're waiting for state and federal law to catch up with us."

瑪莉．錢尼打破沉默 專訪過程吐露心聲

美國副總統狄克．錢尼 (Dick Cheney) 的同志千金瑪莉．錢尼 (Mary Cheney) , 先前未對美國總統布希公開表態反同性婚姻做出回應 , 引起美國 L G B T 團體的強烈不滿。直到日前接受美國廣播公司 (ABC) 新聞主持人戴安．梭爾 (Diane Sawyer) 專訪時 , 才打破沉默 , 說明自己的立場。

瑪莉說 : 「我很掙扎是否要繼續為 2004 年的大選助選」, 部份原因是因為布希已經表示為了捍衛「婚姻的神聖性」, 將修憲阻止同性婚姻的合法化。

這則專訪於週四晚間廣播節目「焦點時刻」("Primetime") 中播放。專訪內容涵蓋了瑪莉出櫃一事、她的長期伴侶希瑟．波 (Heather Poe) 及其剛出版的政治回憶錄「崛起時刻」("Now It's My Turn") 。

美國廣播公司在節目播出之前，事先引述了瑪莉的專訪內容，擷取張貼在網站上。

瑪莉表示，即便身為資深助選顧問，她卻因為布希表態支持修憲，禁止同性婚姻合法化一舉，而未出席布希於 2004 年發表國情咨文演說現場。

儘管瑪莉曾跟家人談論過她進退兩難的政治處境，她卻不曾於公開場合，說明其反「反同性婚姻」的立場。此舉使得支持同性婚姻的人士認為，她的沉默是虛偽的表現。

2004 年，兩位主持「不要修憲」(dontamend.com) 網站的活動人士—約翰．厄瑞弗西斯 (John Aravosis) 和羅賓．泰勒 (Robin Tyler) —號召美國民眾連署刊登在「親愛的瑪莉」(dearmary.com) 網站上的公開信，敦促瑪莉出面支持兩性婚姻平等權。同年底，他們又發動一則網路廣告運動，傳送「為助狄克二次執政，狄克千金慘遭出賣」的文字訊息。

瑪莉於去年遠離政壇，轉為美國的大通訊公司「美國線上時代華納」(簡稱「美國線上」, AOL) 服務。

瑪莉接受美國廣播公司專訪時表示，她和波長達 14 年的感情已是不折不扣的婚姻關係。

「我們一同打造了自己的家和生活，」她說，「我願我倆能共度餘生。眼前的情形是，我們等著美國和聯邦法律實現我們夢想的那一天。」

< 第十二篇 >

AIDS study: Start medicine early

Mike Stobbe, Associated Press
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ATLANTA -- Patients with the AIDS virus are better off if they start taking powerful medicines early, rather than waiting for symptoms of their disease to appear, new research suggests.

A new study calls into question guidelines that say patients should delay taking the toxic drugs to stave off treatment-related complications.

The research focused on "drug cocktail" combinations of three or more drugs. The regimens have become a standard treatment in the last decade, but are associated with such complications as kidney failure and a hand- and foot-numbing condition called peripheral neuropathy.

Federal health officials advise patients to delay this treatment until they develop severe symptoms or the infection causes their natural armament of certain white blood cells to dip below a certain level.

But the researchers found that patients who began taking the drugs early, and took them continuously, developed 28 percent fewer cases of kidney failure and peripheral neuropathy.

"That means one quarter of these cases could be avoided," said Dr. John T. Brooks of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of the scientists who worked on the study.

The findings were presented Tuesday at a scientific conference in Denver. Dr. Kenneth Lichtenstein of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center led the research.

"The intuitive thing to think is . . . the longer you're on the drug, the greater the toxicity," Lichtenstein said. "The surprise in our study is if you didn't develop toxicity in the first six months to a year, your risk of toxicity went down, rather than up."

The researchers examined the medical records of 2,304 patients with HIV in eight U.S. cities.

They placed patients into five groups based on their white blood cell counts, an indication of how sick the patients were.

The researchers compared the risks of kidney failure and the numbing condition for patients with varying white blood counts.

For both side effects, the risk was about 28 percent lower for the patients who started treatment early, before their cell counts dropped, Brooks said.

The study did not attempt to separate the effect of specific drugs. The work is being prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, but has not been published yet.

The findings argue for early HIV testing and treatment, Brooks said, but added, "I don't think anyone is ready to recommend changing the guidelines based on a single report."

愛滋研究：及早治療效果好

一項新的研究顯示，愛滋病患者若能在疾病症狀出現之前，儘早服用強效藥物治療，病情會較容易獲得改善。

過去治療愛滋病的方法是，為了避免治療過程中併發相關合併症狀，病患應儘可能延遲服用強效藥物的時間。這項新的研究則對此傳統療法提出質疑。

這項研究重點在於由三種（或）以上藥物調配而成的「雞尾酒療法」（"drug cocktail"，是「雞尾酒式抗病毒藥物之混合療法」的簡稱）。這種食物療法在過去十年已是典型的治療方式，但另一方面，它也有可能會導致其他併發症，像是腎衰竭和末梢神經病變（即手、腳末梢失去知覺）。

聯邦衛生官員建議愛滋病患者等到嚴重症狀出現，或是體內用以對抗外來細菌及病毒、自我防衛細胞的白血球數量因受到感染、低於某標準的時候，再接受「雞尾酒療法」治療。

但研究人員卻發現，提早且持續服用此藥物的患者，併發腎衰竭和末梢神經病變的機率少了 28%。

聯邦政府疾病預防管理中心（Centers for Disease Control and Prevention）其中一名進行這項研究的科學家，布魯克斯博士（Dr. John T. Brooks）表示：「這個數據意味著，有四分之一比例的愛滋患者可以避免核併症的發生。」

這項研究結果週二在一場於美國丹佛舉辦的科學會議上提出。研究團隊是由科羅拉多大學衛生科學中心的凱尼斯·利奇登斯丹博士（Dr. Kenneth Lichtenstein）所率領。

利奇登斯丹博士說：「一般我們對藥物的直覺認知是，越長期服用某種藥物，對其依賴性就越大。但令我們驚訝的是，這項研究卻顯示：要是病患對藥物的依賴性未在服藥後半年至一年內產生，其出現藥物依賴的機率反而會降低。」

研究人員於美國八大城市，針對 2304 位愛滋病患者的病歷，進行審視。

研究人員根據每位患者白血球的數量，將他們分為 5 個群組。白血球數的作用在於顯示患者病情惡化的程度。

研究人員把患者核併腎衰竭和末梢神經病變的機率，拿來和其白血球數量做對照。

布魯克斯博士表示，患者只要白血球數值減少之前，提早接受藥物治療，併發腎衰竭和末梢神經病變的機率就會減少 28%。

這項研究的目的是不在於離析特定藥物的藥效，而是為了提交一份由同輩研究學者評論的期刊作準備，但這項研究報告尚未出版。

布魯克斯博士表示，這項研究結果乃針對先前愛滋測試及治療方法提出新的理論，但又補充說：「我覺得沒有人會單憑一項研究報告就改變原本的治療方針。」