

# We love. They hate.

**What: Celebration of queer relationships**

**Why: To counter the anti-gay marriage rally**

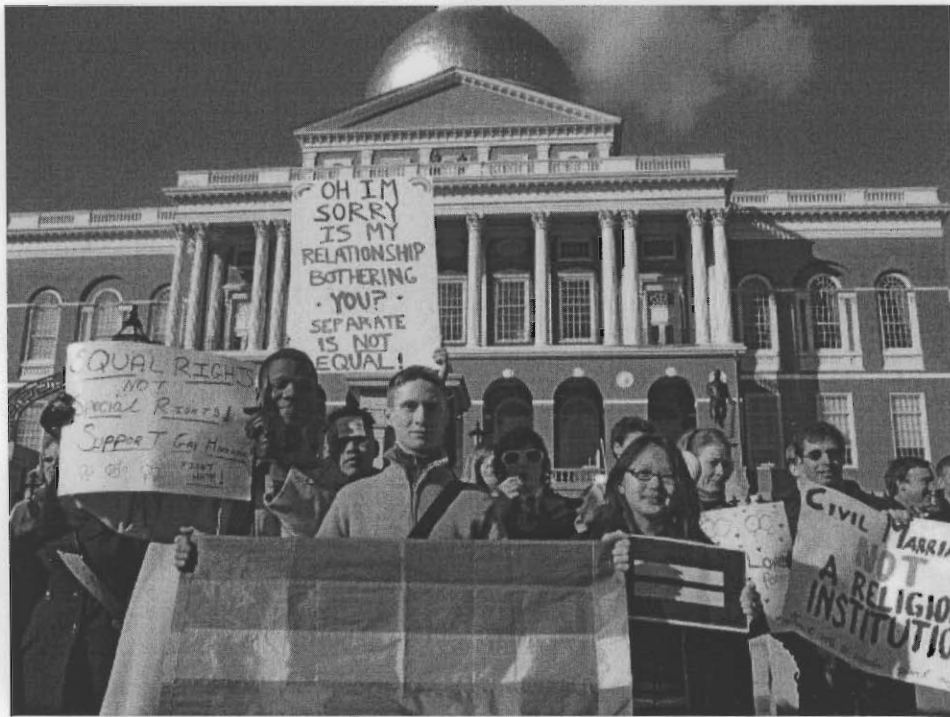
**When: Sunday at 1PM**

**Where: MA State House, Boston**

Allies and family members encouraged to attend!

Important! This is a no confrontation, peaceful event.  
Let's show the public that We Love. They Hate.

Bring music makers, rainbows, signs, and more!



Boston Alliance of Gay Lesbian Bisexual Youth demonstrate in front of the State House.

## Engaged in battle: Gay youths fight for right to marry

By Tenley Woodman  
Monday, March 29, 2004

On the surface, marriage is a fairly simple proposition. But for some, there's much more to it than meets the eye.

"I used to daydream about getting married and having a family with another boy," said Mark Snyder, 21.

"When marriage comes up and people talk about putting it off for a career - I have to do that because it is illegal," said Megan Dowdell, 19. Snyder,

Dowdell and other members of the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (BAGLY) view gay marriage as not just a legal label on love, but as a step toward being recognized as equals in society.

"Marriage has 1,400 rights that come with it," said Snyder, a senior at Emerson College. "There's about 1,000 rights that are missing with civil unions.

"Those rights are as big as hospital visitation rights and as small as forwarding mail."

But Snyder's battle cry is not exclusive to the gay community.

"I believe everyone should have these 1,400 rights, not just married people," said the rural Pennsylvania native.

Generation Y has grown up in an environment where openly gay personalities are prevalent in the mainstream media.

Still, something is missing.

"I had no concept (of marriage) because there were no models," said BAGLY member Trevor Wright, 19, of Weymouth.

"It's very unhealthy not having anything the queer youth can look at that is not in a negative light," he said about television shows like "Will & Grace" and "Queer As Folk" that fail to represent the committed relationships in gay culture.

The state Supreme Judiciary Committee meets today in a constitutional convention to decide whether to approve amendments that would ban gay marriage in Massachusetts.

"(Anti-gay marriage activists) bring the whole religion factor into it," said Cherrie Marie Smith, 17, of West Bridgewater. "It's stupid. They don't use religion for a lot of things they do pass.

"They shouldn't hinder our right to be happy."

While religious groups have pointed to their beliefs in their opposition to gay marriage, Dowdell cites her faith in her argument for same-sex unions.

"I bring it (religion) in as I'm lucky enough to have a faith that supports it (gay marriage)," she said.

Dowdell is a member of the First Parish Church Unitarian Universalists in Beverly and is on the church's youth board.

"Any faith should not have the right to decide on civil marriage," Dowdell said.

Andy Garcia, the program director at BAGLY, said the group has made gay marriage its personal fight.

"It took me aback because initially I thought it wouldn't be a big issue," said Garcia, 30.

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