

QNotes

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Mailing Address:
PO Box 221841
Charlotte, NC 28222
Phone: 704-531-9988
Fax: 704-531-1361
E-mail: editor@q-notes.com
Website: http://www.q-notes.com

Publisher & CEO Jim Yarbrough
Managing Editor Clay Ollis
Associate Editor Lainey Millen
Administrative Asst Brian M. Myer
Advertising Sales Jim Yarbrough
Distribution Nolan Jones
Jeff Habbestad

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212-242-6863

Contributing Writers: Peg Byron, Dan Cullinane, David Elliot, Anabel Evora, Eric Ferrero, Aimee Gelnaw, Marni Grant, Art Greenwald, Kevin Isom, Robert Kirby, Charlene Lichtenstein, Lainey Millen, Brian M. Myer, Clay Ollis, Stam Predrag, Bob Scarano, David Scondras, Ronda Shouse, Clifton Spires, Trinity

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viewpoint

Is Heather a better child because she has two mommies?

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents are finally coming of age. After decades in the closet and then the struggles of coming out into and becoming part of their local communities, the results of GLBT parenting are becoming evident.



Aimee Gelnaw

New research by Judith Stacey and Timothy J. Biblarz of the University of Southern California shows that GLBT parents are not only, by and large, good parents, but that GLBT parenting may impact children and the world into which they are brought in positive ways no one ever dreamed.

Any legitimate discussion of parenting must first focus on the best interest of the children. Stacey and Biblarz have done just that.

Here is where the good news lies. Children brought up by lesbians and gay men are well adjusted, have good self-esteem, and are as likely to achieve high educational attainments as chil-

dren raised in more traditional heterosexual families. Moreover, there appear to be advantages to children raised in lesbian-headed families in that co-mothers tend to be more involved in their children's lives and more nurturing, in addition to exhibiting greater harmony in their parenting approaches.

According to the study, boys raised with GLBT parents tended to be more nurturing and affectionate and to be less sexually aggressive than boys raised in more traditional heterosexual families. Girls with GLBT parents tended to have higher career aspirations to non-traditional gender occupations such as doctor, lawyer, engineer, and astronaut, and to more freely explore diverse opportunities rather than considering only traditional female roles.

The study seems to indicate that "our" children may be different from other children in qualitative ways, while remaining on par in the quantifiable measures such as academic achievement. It seems these differences are ones that can possibly have a positive impact on the world in which we live. In a society where the statistics indicate that males perpetrate most of the violence and where girls have been prevented from reaching their full potential, our children offer a ray of hope. Who knew a "kinder, gentler world" would start with GLBT parents? ▼

— Aimee Gelnaw
San Diego, CA

[The writer was recently named executive director of the Family Pride Coalition.]

Romero

Continued from Page 1

Glasser announced his retirement last August, saying that he wanted to spend more time with his wife of 41 years, his four adult children and two grandchildren.

Commenting on Glasser's tenure and the Romero appointment, Strossen said: "The infrastructure to defend fundamental rights that Ira Glasser leaves us is truly a legacy of liberty," she added. "It makes us confident in our ability to manage the transition to his successor, Anthony Romero."

The president of the Ford Foundation, Susan V. Berresford, said, "We feel fortunate to have drawn on Anthony's abundant talents and energies over eight years. He has been an outstanding leader and valued colleague throughout the time we have worked together."

"Anthony will bring the ACLU intellectual leadership, management skills of a high order, and a deep commitment to rights advocacy," Berresford added.

As part of his vision for the ACLU, Romero said that he would work to increase, diversify and better utilize the ACLU membership and strengthen its affiliate offices. "While most civil rights and civil liberties organizations focus on a specific issue or a particular constituency," he said, "the ACLU is the only organization that

defends all of our constitutional liberties and the rights of all Americans."

"Most of our cases," Romero said, "come to us from ordinary people who need the ACLU because they have been denied basic rights guaranteed under our Constitution. They need our help to fight back."

As to issues, Romero said, "first and most importantly, the ACLU's commitment to free speech must be undiminished. From my work in countries such as China and Kenya, I have come to appreciate the central role of free speech in securing other civil rights and civil liberties," he said. "This is a core ACLU issue that will require continued advocacy and vigilance."

But he added that other core ACLU issues — including religious liberty, reproductive freedom and women's rights, racial justice, immigrants' rights and lesbian and gay equality — will also require increased attention and resources.

Romero said that his commitment to civil rights, civil liberties and social justice comes from his life experience. "My memories of discrimination, homophobia and poverty stand in sharp contrast to the dignity and love I got from my family," he said.

Romero will start work at the ACLU's national headquarters in September. Born to Puerto Rican immigrant parents in the Bronx, he now lives in Manhattan with his partner. ▼

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