

Gay Marriage in the USA?

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AND MADDIE SPINKS

At one time women couldn't vote and interracial couples couldn't marry, but today many people enjoy and practice these rights. Today gays should enjoy the right to be married, the same way heterosexual couples do. Homosexual couples should have the rights that accompany marriage other couples receive; however, close-mindedness and the United States government

stand in the way.

One example of how the US disenfranchises same gender couples is that loved ones cannot be granted power of attorney over their partner because they cannot be married. Therefore, one could not see or speak to their hospitalized loved one, and could not

make burial arrangements if they were to die.

The love that an individual feels for a member of their

own gender is hard for some to understand, and most opposition stems from that intoler-

ance. Some people consider romance between people of the same sex offensive. Despite irrational negative reactions to most gay relationships, same-sex partners should be allowed to marry. Simply because one outsider disagrees with the sexual preferences of another person it is not reason enough to prohibit a union between two men or two women.

In the US, not everyone practices the same religion, and just because the majority of the nation is not Muslim, the religion is not outlawed. Similarly, because the majority of Americans are opposed to same-sex marriages does not warrant the prohibition of it. Government representatives are elected to uphold the opin-

ions and lifestyles of their constituents, not the principles of the representatives' religions.

Church is separated from state, so our representatives should not be, our preachers. Politicians should not be pushing

their own religious beliefs on the world through the legislative system. Even though a community has negative attitudes toward homosexual marriages because of their religion, a gay couple should not be kept from upholding their own beliefs and faiths.

America prides itself in being a free country in which individuals can practice their own beliefs; shouldn't gay marriage be allowed in such an accepting nation?

Marriage is a union of souls, and should be based solely on love. If two men love one another, or if two women love one another, why shouldn't they be married? If churches, governmental officials, or other citizens disagree with gay marriage, let them. The marriage affects only those who are wed.

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Synthesized Diamonds: Faux, or Favorable?

REBECCA BUCKWALTER

Today we often have two options: the natural choice, i.e. the sort of milk that Whole Foods labels "organic"; or the product of technology, the milk containing the artificial chemicals and hormones that may make you grow a third eye one day. Progress seems to mean that as time goes on the artificial will dominate our shelves and refrigerators - third eyes permitting. Allow me to introduce the gemological twist on this theme: the synthesized diamond.

In Florida and Boston, scientists and entrepreneurs have spawned two separate techniques for the affordable and reliable synthesis of diamonds. Gemesis, in Florida, uses redesigned Russian machines to subject carbon to high temperature, high pressure conditions that simulate the geological conditions and stress that produce a diamond.

In Maryland, scientists have discovered a chemical vapor deposition process they are using to create ever-bigger gem wafers for both jewelry and technological applications.

Apollo promises to produce a diamond with a diameter of one foot within the next five years. For the computer industry, previously limited by the price tag on diamonds and the heat tolerance of silicon, these manufactured diamonds represent a new age of speed, precision, and power in electronics and optics.

Diamond synthesis will destabilize the blood diamond industry in Africa, which means the diamond industry has the potential to, through its

While their work is illegal, it may be the only opportunity for some Africans to earn the wages needed to support their family. The one certainty in the collapse of the illicit diamond mining and transport industry is the reduction in deaths and criminal activities associated with diamonds.

DeBeers, which controls sixty percent of the world's diamond supply, has responded to diamond synthesis with a series of progressively more desperate ploys to differentiate DeBeers diamonds, which are natural, from the synthesized variety. Alas, DeBeers' Gem

Defensive Programme seems a lost cause - machines and jewelers alike are rarely able to tell the difference between the two varieties of diamonds. Gemesis has only minute molecular level differences that they intend to remedy, and the Bostonians are producing perfect diamonds - differentiable only by their flawless structure.

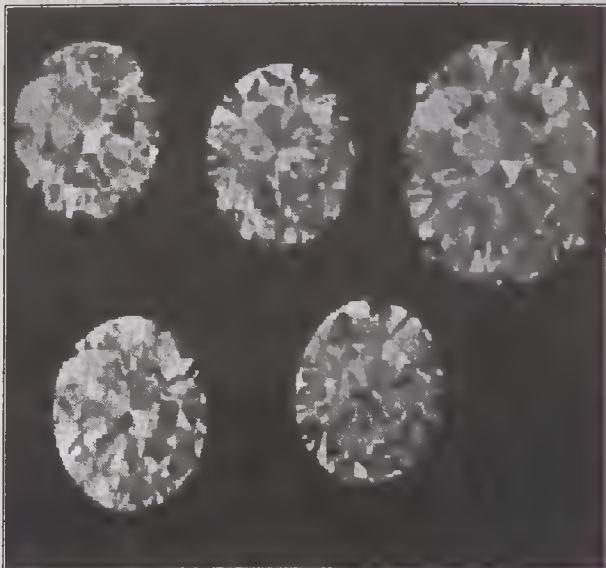
Objections among the elites, which I define as those who purchase and do not actually mine diamonds, range from outrage over the commonality now lent to "a girl's best friend" to concerns over the technological conquest of

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<http://www.diamondshere.com/pics/diamonds.jpg>



<http://www.lanegems.com.au/diamonds.jpg>

the gemological world. Diamonds are the last gem to fall prey to a lab and now yet another aspect of the natural world is gone. They are no longer a symbol of eternity, but an affordable bauble that costs Apollo five dollars a carat to manufacture.

On the other hand, diamonds are also losing their power to destroy and bloody the relations of Africa. Diamond synthesis has the potential to topple DeBeers, thus freeing large portions of industry for

African control by compromising the price and exclusivity of diamonds that built the DeBeers empire.

The optimistic end effects of diamond synthesis may be a technological boom, a conclusion to the African blood diamond war, and a challenge to hundreds of years of gem-induced strife among socioeconomic classes, nations and companies. The synthesis of diamonds proves that technology does still occasionally produce beneficial rather than gratuitous developments for our world - the fact that the positive international implications were accidental in this case does not diminish the sparkle of this development.