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Julie and Hillary Goodridge

Same-Sex Marriage and the Flawed Logic of the Religious Right

Op-Ed

By Gena Hymowech

This past summer, **Julie** and **Hillary Goodridge** broke up, as did **Carolyn Conrad** and **Kathleen Peterson**.

What's the big deal about that? Well, the big deal is that Julie and Hillary were the lead plaintiffs in the case that made same-sex marriage legal in Massachusetts,

while Carolyn and Kathleen were the first same-sex couple to enter a civil union in the United States.

When these couples broke up, it was major news. It also led to negative commentary from—surprise—the religious right. An editorial (which ran without a byline) about Carolyn and Kathleen in the **Republican American** (a conservative Connecticut newspaper) stated that "Homosexual couples, it seems, aren't always the loving, devoted, way-better-than-heterosexual people that Hollywood, the news media and homosexual agitators make them out to be."

Reverend **Louis Sheldon**, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, said, on the **TVC's Web site**, that "The separation of Julie and Hillary Goodridge is tragic not only for their daughter, but ...they have clearly shown just how little they value the institution of marriage and provide a chilling look into what our nation faces if homosexual marriage is legalized elsewhere."

Julie and Hillary's separation is "chilling?" Well, if that's true, then straight marriage is downright horrifying. We live in a world, after all, where around thirty to fifty percent of married straight couples get divorced. (No one, it seems, can agree on

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