



Straight But Not Narrow

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2008

LGBTQ2 Events

- Sept. - Folsom Street Fair
- October - Gay & Lesbian History Month
- Oct. - San Francisco Love Fest
- Oct. - National Coming Out Day
- Dec. 1 - World AIDS Day
- Dec. 1-7 - National Tolerance Week
- Jan. 3 - Kinsey Report Publication Anniversary
- Jan. 26 - 30 - No Name Calling Week
- Feb. 9 - World Marriage Day
- June - Gay & Lesbian Pride Month
- June 27 - 28 - 39th Annual SF LGBTQ Pride Celebration & Parade

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Reasons To Be an Ally

This may be an issue you have been thinking about. Being an ally is more than just saying that you accept gay people. There are many reasons why you should be an ally. You should be an ally because:



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- You believe that as humans, we should all have the same rights.
- You know that discriminating against someone because they look or act different is wrong.
- You think about what you say, and how it may negatively affect others.
- You are a good person who cares about people other than yourself.
- You cannot just stand by while someone is being bashed for being gay.
- You are straight, but not narrow minded.

In the history of our country many groups have had to fight for rights. Women fought for equality, African Americans fought for equality, and now homosexuals are fighting that same battle. You should be an ally because you believe in this fight, and want to do whatever you can to help. For your commitment, thank you. It truly means more than you may think.

What Exactly Is an Ally?

According to Chico State's Web page, "Safe Zone's purpose is to reduce homophobia and heterosexism on our campus and thereby make our campus a safer and freer environment for all members of our community. The Safe Zone project identifies individuals in the campus faculty, staff and student body to become safe zone allies. These people provide a safe haven, a listening ear, or an open accessibility for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) who are in need of advice or services from that individual. The Safe Zone program will provide raining, information, and community resource identification to those who express I trust in becoming a Safe Zone Ally."



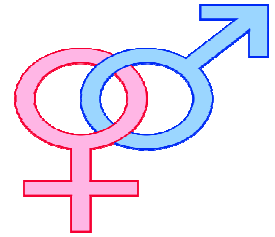
<http://www.csuchico.edu/pride/>

Important Symbols



- Symbol for Homosexual Males

- Symbol for Heterosexual Individuals



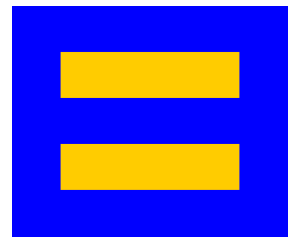
- Symbol for Homosexual Females

- Peace sign, Symbolizing Harmony



- Symbol for Transgender Individuals

- Symbol Representing Equality



Demystifying Sexual Orientation

People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual come in as many different shapes, colors and sizes as do people who are heterosexual. They belong to all ethnic and racial groups, and are members of all religious communities. They exhibit a wide range of ages, mental and physical capabilities. There is not one specific profile, nor a known cause determining sexual orientation. Some research indicates that sexual orientation is established between birth and age 3, but no one is sure what specifically causes particular orientations. Most lesbian, gay and bisexual people are

comfortable with their own biological sex; they don't regard themselves as members



of the opposite sex. Being lesbian, gay or bisexual is not the same as being trans-

gender. There is no definable gay "lifestyle." Similarly, there is no standard heterosexual lifestyle. Some people might like to think that a "normal" adult lifestyle is a heterosexual marriage with two children. Less than 7% of all family units in the U.S. consist of a mother, a father and two children living together. The most accurate generalization might be this: lesbian, gay and bisexual people are different from one another in the same ways that heterosexual people are different from one another.

*Excerpts from Youth Pride, Inc. in conjunction with The Campaign to End Homophobia.

Violence & Bullying

From a remark at school to a threatened beating, the LGBTQ population is faced with violence every day.

A study conducted by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) reported 4 out of 5 students are harassed every day because their appearance or perceived sexual orientation. Schools across the country are standing up against this fact through strict policies against harassment, supportive faculty, and stu-

dents educating students on the LGBTQ population.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) advocates against LGBTQ violence by organizing and promoting anti-violence education. Please be proactive and locate a NCAVP nearest you to report violent behavior.

Stand up against harassment and bullying. It is up to you, as an ally, to stand against these vicious words

and/or acts. Set an example for others to follow.



“Don’t live your life in fear of rejection, just live your life.”

Life in the Closet: Testimony

Life in the closet was a scary place. I felt alone, trapped by a secret I feared would ruin my reputation if it got out. I lived in constant fear, that I would be judged, taunted, mentally abused, and even physically hurt by closed-minded people. Going out on the town always made me anxious, because even though I wasn’t out looking for a fight, it seemed everywhere I turned, I heard someone say *fag*

this, or homo that. I just assumed that if they only knew, I would be done for. I had friends that didn’t truly know me. I put on a show for 20 years, full of lies and secrets just to make sure everyone thought I was straight. I guess that’s why when I came out I had trouble convincing the ones I was telling that I really do like boys. At some point in my life, I decided I was sick of feeling alone. Although

life outside the closet is a scary place, at least now I am not alone. I truly feel that all of my friends and family know the real me. People are afraid of what they don’t understand. I found out that some of the people I was most afraid of telling were the ones who were most excited to hear it. Don’t live your life in fear of rejection, just live your life.

When Someone Tells You They’re Gay

Coming out may be very difficult for friendships but it often results in increased closeness. It is vital to remain understanding, honest, and supportive when friends tell you that they are gay. An LGBTQ individual has often thought extensively before coming out to a friend, so it is important to understand their honesty despite the risks involved when disclosing this type of

personal information. It is critical to understand that your LGBTQ friend is still the same person and that they are trusting you with highly sensitive and personal information. It is natural to have feelings surrounding your friends LGBTQ announcement, and it is wise to be honest. Coming out takes a lot of internal strength; therefore it is imperative to remain

supportive. It would be helpful to ask questions or participate in LGBTQ events with your friend. If a friend comes out to you, they often regard you as a safe person to share this information with, so it is essential that you be understanding, honest, and supportive for your LGBTQ friend.

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