



Gays only want the right to live, work

Those who say that gays want to flaunt their lifestyle with Measures A and B don't understand a gay's position in the workplace.

As a gay man, I am faced with straight co-workers and bosses talking about their lifestyles, which is OK by me.

Problems arise when inquiries are made into my sexual lifestyle — inquiries I don't initiate. I am continually asked if I have a "chick," am I married, how would I like to score with that sexy girl walking down the hall?

Opponents to A and B encourage me to lie and deceive my friends and co-workers by staying in the closet. If I am truthful, they say I am flaunting my lifestyle. Unfair!

A and B recognize that sexual matters are anything but private in the real world and promote a society where honesty and fairness are valued over deceit and Catch-22 morality.

Everyone benefits from a more open and honest society. Let's bury the dark ages.

— Ben Sbarbaro
San Jose

A May 10 letter from Paul L. Graves on Measures A and B states that "they (homosexuals) are the ones who have made this a public issue."

He must have a very short memory. Back in 1977, State Sen. John Briggs came back from campaigning in Florida with Anita Bryant and announced a witch-hunt against gay people and their friends in California. Many of us were shocked out of our complacency at this attack on our civil liberties and realized the need for protection.

We were shocked again in 1978 when the San Jose City Council reversed its vote for a resolution recognizing "Gay Human Rights Week," and our opponents put out an arrogant press release stating that they would not tolerate gay people "on our streets or in our neighborhoods, now or in the future." That convinced a lot of us

that our opponents wanted something more than to practice their own religious beliefs.

The so-called "Moral Majority" said in a recent campaign mailing that, "State Senator John Briggs made a valiant effort in 1978 to halt the homosexual malignancy with his statewide referendum." Briggs also promised in 1978 to bring back his anti-gay initiative for another try. The effort to block Measures A & B is a first step. A "yes" vote will nip his demagogic ambitions in the bud.

— David K. Treadwell
San Jose

In response to the two letters headed "Gays Force Their Lifestyle on the Godly," the writers obviously believe that the heterosexual is the "godly" person while the homosexual is the "ungodly" one.

The Bible tells us that God created all humanity in His own image and likeness, which makes all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, "godly" people.

"Ungodliness" is manifested by bigotry and hatred, so well illustrated by these two letters.

— Father Thomas R. Bettencourt
San Jose

I am a gay woman responding to the May 10 letter from Paul L. Graves. He quotes from the middle-class, gay, male publication, *The Advocate*, to prove that "gays" are the "most affluent of any minority."

Opponents of Measures A and B also quote from a marketing survey apparently taken by Blueboy, another gay male magazine, to show how well off "gays" are economically. "Gay men have more discretionary income because they seldom have family obligations," says the chairman of Blueboy, Inc., in the *U.S. News & World Report*.

Gay women heave a sigh and laugh a little bitterly to themselves when reading such statements. Gay women — and particularly Third World lesbians — suffer multiple

discrimination and are often at the bottom of the heap economically. Add to this fact the percentage of lesbian mothers who do "have family obligations," and the overall picture looks quite different.

I can understand the temptation of gay male magazine publishers to brag about the affluence and "discretionary income" of their readers — how better to attract advertisers to support the publication? But to use these statistics as representative of gay men and women as a whole makes as much sense as using *Playboy* readers to stereotype the heterosexual population.

— Carol Crannell
Cupertino

Gays are *not* attempting to force their way of life on anyone else. Measures A and B will simply provide the very basic protections against discrimination that are already enjoyed by the heterosexual community.

Nobody has ever found a passage in the Bible that reads: "Thou shalt discriminate against those who are different from yourself." As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches just the opposite.

— Miguel A. Lazcano
Santa Clara

— Richard W. Booher Jr.
San Jose

The assertion that homosexuals can be "converted" to heterosexuality is extremely dubious, but as far as Measures A and B are concerned, the issue is a moot point. Existing civil rights legislation protects against discrimination on the basis of religion, political affiliation and marital status — and these are certainly a matter of choice.

The underlying principle is that these matters are nobody's business and should not be a basis of bias in housing, employment and government services.

— Daniel Hein
San Jose

55 Marc 5/24