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A little friendly advice

by Zane & Amy Special to Q-Notes

In this issue we would like to talk about selfidentity revelations. Some people know from day one that they are gay; others - like us don't quite get it until later; others a little later than that; and some people, unfortunately, never figure it out.

We have all probably sat down once or twice (or in our case 100 times) and thought about when it was that we realized we were gay and why we didn't see it earlier. Hindsight being 20/20, we look back over our lives and can't believe we didn't get it together sooner and pick up on the "red flags." One of us has even gotten angry thinking about it because someone anyone — could save so much heartache by just pointing it out. It's not like it's ever going to happen, but wouldn't this be easier in the long run: "Hi, I know you are only 10 years old, but I am going to save you a lot of heartache...you're gay!'

You know what I am talking about. We've all seen them, those young budding homosexuals that we wish we could talk to. Instead, we just walk off wondering when they'll figure it

Below are some of our red flags. We found them to be humorous, enlightening and sure clues we should have picked up on.

- Oh, that's why I never forgot Emily from girl scout camp when I was 12. I didn't just think she was really cool, I thought she was really cool. I looked her up 22 years later - no kidding - and had a wonderful time. Evidently, she thought I was pretty cool back then, too. Isn't it funny how you "know," but you really don't "know."
 - Oh, that's why I never wanted baby dolls

for Xmas. My lists usually read something like this: "Dear Santa, I have been very good this year, please bring me the following for Christmas: 1) The New California 500 Fat Track racing set; 2) A yellow Schwinn Varsity boys 10speed bike with black tapes on the handle bars; 3) A Tasco microscope so Lcan dissect frogs; 4) Any Hot Wheels vehicles that I don't already have; 5) A remote control car that I can drive up and down the ramps I build; 6) A basketball; 7) A baseball glove; 8) A pair of new high tops; 9) A mini bike; and 10) A fishing pole.

- · Oh, that's why I wouldn't be caught dead in a dress. Sorry, mom, but all those times (once a week - poor me) that you thought I was skipping out the door to school in my lovely dress, I was making a bee-line to the milk box where I had stashed my pants the night before. Thank goodness the milkman came after I went to school. (Are we dating ourselves? Anyone have a milkman anymore?)
- Oh, that's why my boyfriend and I argued constantly because I hung out with his sister more than I hung out with him. (We know some of you out there have been in this situa-
- Oh, that's why I never understood what was so great about "love" songs. I never had a song that was so special to me and my boyfriend that I got butterflies whenever I heard it. I just never got that feeling...well, not until my first girlfriend. (And by the way, thank you Oleta Adams!)

So, there you have it — a few of our little revelations that, had we noticed, would have saved much time in the coming out process. We'd love for you readers to tell us when your red flags changed to rainbow flags. We know you have some funny things to share, so write us. Many readers will be able to relate and enjoy hearing about similar experiences. We would also like letters regarding your coming out experiences for a future column.

[Send your questions, problem stituations, comments and helpful hints to Zane & Amy at: Designer Genes, PO Box 221841, Charlotte, NC 28222; fax: (704) 531-1361; or email them to:

DesignerGs@aol.com.]

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