

(HRCF SURVEY, continued from page 1)

Looking at HRCF contributors, you'd think that nobody in New Orleans cared about the judges who send convicted "fag bashers" home with barely a slap on the wrist. You'd think there wasn't a single gay person in Denver who felt threatened by the fact that gays all over the country lose their jobs and their homes because of who they are. You'd think there weren't any young men in St. Louis who were frightened at the idea of how little money the government is spending on AIDS research and treatment. Once more, you'd be wrong.

What you'd be right about is that these people don't believe, don't care, don't feel threatened, frightened or discriminated against enough to do something tangible to alter the legal and social realities that place their very own civil rights in jeopardy.

This sad fact has at least two dangerous consequences. First, it prevents the HRCF as well as all other gay organizations from truly representing the needs and the wishes of the lesbian and gay community. Organizations find themselves responding more and more to those few of their constituents who send contributions, and they therefore risk becoming increasingly remote from all those people whom they represent but whom they cannot see.

More importantly, the fledgling status of national gay organizations does not go unnoticed by lawmakers in Washington or our opponents across the country. The gay community, to a large and dangerous extent, remains elusive, remains silent, remains vulnerable.

There is no such things as a "homogeneous homosexual community." But we do have two things in common: (1) our civil rights are either ignored or specifically outlawed, and (2) potentially as a community we have the power to change that.

...NO CONSTITUENCY WHOSE NUMBERS, COMMITMENT, AND POTENTIAL POWER IS AS UNDERDEVELOPED AS THAT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

So you hide, and organizations like HRCF seek. We're not asking you to come out of the closet, we just want you to come out of the woodwork. We need to know that you're out there as well as what you think. We need your monetary contributions and your ideological support.

There are groups of retired railroad conductors who outnumber and outspend us in Washington. There are coalitions one-tenth our size who have amassed 20 times our level of influence. There is perhaps no other constituency whose numbers, commitment, and potential power is as underdeveloped as that of our community.

This game of hide and seek must end. Somehow, we in the lesbian and gay community must find each other because, if we allow those hostile to us to find us first, they may force us to remain in hiding forever.

So come out, come out, wherever you are.

Contributions may be sent to:
Human Rights Campaign Fund
P.O. Box 1396
Washington, DC 20013
Phone 202-546-2025

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Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays to Meet in Atlanta

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will meet in Atlanta, GA for their Fourth Annual Convention from Oct. 25 to 28, at the Colony Square Hotel.

The theme of this national convention is "How to," and eight different workshops are planned covering a variety of subjects, including helping parents cope, coming out, dealing with AIDS, and how to involve the gay community.

For more information, come by the CGLA office or phone 962-4401.

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Education for freedom must begin by stating facts and enunciating values, and must go on to develop appropriate techniques for realizing the values and for combating those who, for whatever reason, choose to ignore the facts or deny the values.

-Aldous Huxley
Brave New World Revisited