

Letters

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book is available at \$3 each (plus \$1 handling) from Discipleship Resources, P. O. Box 840, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

The book presents every biblical and theological viewpoint on homosexuality, giving equal weight to each one. Of course, that "balance" creates some difficulties, and the book almost seems designed to confuse its readers.

Despite the inclusion of homophobic perspectives, this book is bound to further understanding and acceptance of the gay community among those Christians who take the time to read it. We suspect that before now most Methodists have only heard one Christian viewpoint on homosexuality—a negative perspective centering on two or three isolated Bible verses. By also including gay-positive Christian perspectives, the book has got to be a plus.

We might add that **Now That You Know**, the acclaimed book for parents of gays by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward, has been reissued in paperback by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. After a too-long absence, it should be available in the more complete bookstores.

Just a few kind words. . .

Dear Michael Baker,

Your newspaper, *The Front Page*, is an extraordinary paper. It opens doors in all facades of life. For the young and old alike and also expressing support to the gay members who are just beginning to see their own shadows. Thanks a lot for giving the support that we all need. And I think I can speak for everyone who holds a state of mind.

Sincerely,
Anthony III
Raleigh, NC

Dear *Front Page*,

The Front Page is the best local paper with local ads that I have seen. May you continue with the best of success.

Ken
Greensboro, NC

Dear Editor,

Hi! I just want to say that I enjoy reading *The Front Page* and I think it is a great service to the gay community of North Carolina. The knowledge that lesbians and gay men are socially conscious (beyond "who did what to whom" the previous weekend) is exciting!

Sincerely,
D
Hickory, NC

Is The Front Page Oppressive?!?

Several issues back, we printed a release from the Paths Untrodden Bookshop but we made a mistake in the cost of their catalogue, which the following letter corrects. Their 1981 catalogue lists 1,115 titles concerning the "gay male experience." The mailing address is PO Box 459, Village Station, New York, NY 10014.

Dear Brothers:

We were pleased to see our Press Release published in Vol. II, No. 9 of *The Front Page* but were alarmed to see the catalog price listed as "\$12.00." It should be—\$2.00—which is refundable from the first order.

Also with respect to page C-4, I noted the statement under restaurants "appropriate behavior is expected and appreciated." Frankly, I do not ever recall reading a more oppressive statement. Homosexuals have nothing whatsoever to gain by denying their very existence, and adopting behavior to suit their oppressors. It is not the behavior of homosexuals which should be modified but the mentality of heteros.

I live on Christopher Street in New York

where gayness is freely expressed and most neighborhood establishments are completely gay. In this openness lies hope, there is nothing to be gained from hiding. Anne Frank lived in hiding in an attic in Amsterdam for years waiting for footsteps on the stairs. *One day those footsteps were heard.*

All Good Things,
Walter J. Phillips
Proprietor
Paths Untrodden Bookshop

Thanks for writing, Walter. The line you mention from our irregularly-printed "Nightlife Guide" was included at the request of several of the restaurant owners. It was the only way some of them would consent to be listed. You must remember that living in New York gives you a different perspective. . . it's perhaps worth noting that none of our North Carolina readers have yet commented on that sentence.

Arnie Kantrowitz once wrote "Christopher Street and Castro Street are really one long street separated only by America." Please have patience with those of us who struggle in less protected environments. For a contrasting point of view, see the following letter which comes, ironically, from San Francisco.

Dear *Front Page*:

I live in San Francisco, but I happened to read a copy of your paper since my roommate has a sister living in Greenville who sent it to her.

Anyway, I feel very lucky to live in a city that provides so many services to gay people; where gays have freedom to a greater extent than our brothers and sisters in other cities. But after reading *The Front Page*, I realized that San Francisco doesn't hold the monopoly on kindness, sensitivity, and caring. It's obvious that neither your readers nor your writers have developed the hard-edged cynicism that is all too commonplace among gay San Franciscans. The sensitivity and unity expressed throughout your paper is extremely reassuring.

Keep doing what you're doing and maybe we'll be lucky to have your attitude rub off on us!

Sincerely,
Gary Skop
SF, CA

And, just in case anyone needs reminding about what life is like outside the big cities, there are these recent letters. . .

Please send me the free brochure on coming out. Thanks. Be sure to seal envelope real good with scotch tape if possible.

Joe
York, PA

Dear sirs:

Please find enclosed my check for a one year subscription. I am very lonely here in the "boondocks."

Please print my ad in the next issues.

Thank you in anticipation.

Sincerely,
P.
Winterville, NC

Dear sirs:

Please send me a sample copy of the *Front Page* in a plain envelope. I live in a very small community and I will be watched by Post Office ladies and the red-neck neighbor ladies. Thank you in anticipation.

Sincerely,
C.M.

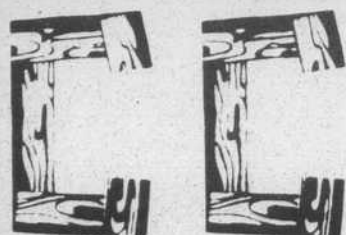
Dear Michael,

This letter is a statement of my personal appreciation for the work that you and the other people at *The Front Page* have done to establish your paper and to keep it alive. If you care to publish part or all of this letter, please do so—though I ask you not to print my name or location. We gay men and women still have cause to maintain what I think of as a "reasonable" level of paranoia in North Carolina.

I am a nearly-middle-aged man with a history of a long straight-only sex life, followed by a mixed and then a mostly-gay sex life.

continued on following page

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