

Where queer anger comes from

(CUP)

used by homosexuals to make the heterosexuals feel that there is something wrong with themselves, when in reality it is the homosexuals who have something wrong with themselves. -Homophobia is a lack of education and horrible rumours, and I find it degrading in the same way that you don't have to be black to feel it's wrong to be racist.

-I am uncomfortable.

-It is time to accept everyone for who they are whether we agree or disagree. Just let people live their lives.

-This questionnaire is rather ambiguous.

How the hell should I know PEI's homosexual community size?

-Not bad. It could have been a tad more in-depth.

-I may not be gay or lesbian, but I have experienced a lot of homophobia. Question 8 [How many gay, lesbian and bisexual friends] is very stupid. I don't think it matters how many of my friends are gay, lesbian or bisexual.

-I realize that homosexuals exist on PEI, but coming from a small town I didn't realize just how many there were. I was raised to believe that everyone is equal no matter what their religion, colour, race or sexual preference.

-Some of my best friends (from Saskatoon and Vancouver) are gay -- wonderful people to party with. Gay bars are the best ones to go to (no fights, lots of entertainment, great looking people -- guys and gals --, cheap drinks and great tunes). Gays definitely have a different perspective; consequently, they're refreshing to talk to. (DO have a problem with 'butch' lesbians who hate men and bi's who expect you to feel sorry for them because they can't make up their minds.)

-I think people who are homophobic haven't really thought about the issue.

-You might consider running this quiz past some gays, lesbians and bis before you use it next time.

-This survey is too shallow to depict fair arguments for either side.

-My name is -- -- and I am proud of my sexuality.

-This is a waste of trees. Why would this be any of the X-Press's business!?

-Try it, you'll like it!

-Why are you paying such attention to a group that makes up only 10% of the population? Why do you not pay attention to other minorities such as Asians?

-It's really not my business what other people's sexual preference is unless it is in some way making me uncomfortable (homosexual or heterosexual). What others do and who they do it with isn't any of my business!

-I know that my friend is gay and I am comfortable around him, but I would not be if he talked about it. He has confided in me, but doesn't talk about it -- he doesn't make reference to other men or women in sexual ways. I think he knows this would make me feel uncomfortable.

In recent years there has been a rise of new lesbian, gay and bisexual-- or queer-- militancy resulting in the birth of organizations such as Queer Nation, Nation Rose, Outrage and others. These are the result of a simmering boil of an anger that is becoming a raging one as a new generation of queer youth comes of age.

Understanding these groups means understanding the anger and the societal situations that cause anger.

The list below is a sampling of some of the sources of one person's anger:

1. From never being told anything about my sexuality at school
2. From not being able to tell anyone about my first relationship and lover
3. From having to go through my confusion about my sexuality alone
4. From feeling self loathing when I first realized I wasn't straight
5. From knowing many others like me killed themselves as teenagers
6. From reading "die fag" on the bathroom wall and knowing they meant me
7. From having to sit quietly by while someone said they hated gays because I didn't feel safe enough to say anything
8. From having to tell people my sexuality so I don't have to go through that again
9. From wondering if someone will stop being a friend if I "come out" to them
10. From having it happen
11. From having to come out to large numbers of people about my sexuality at one time
12. From getting drunk to avoid the stress every time I come out to a large or personally important group of people
13. From having to leave volunteer work for lesbian and gay groups off my resume
14. From turning down relationships because I didn't want to deal with the baggage of a closeted relationship
15. From having to tell my parents I'm not straight
16. From having to ask myself if I risked losing them if I did
17. From having a friend tell my brother my sexuality before I did
18. From knowing my mother is uncomfortable with my sexuality
19. From walking friends to their homes to feel safer
20. From having abuse screamed at me on the street.
21. From having a roommate lock himself in his room for two days after being stabbed because he was gay.
22. From being hit with a baseball bat
23. From not feeling safe on the streets
24. From knowing that none of us reported

it to the police.

25. From a gay friend telling me he was based three times in one night

26. From finding out homosexuals were killed during the Holocaust and its never having been mentioned in history classes.

27. From finding out that with the collapse of Germany they were not released but kept interned as criminals to "complete their sentences"

28. From knowing people who have died of AIDS

29. From knowing the government should have done more sooner before AIDS became a crisis in my community

30. From waiting to see gay and lesbian relationships portrayed on tv

31. From only seeing gays portrayed as either victim or victimizer

32. From wanting to hear a queer love ballad on the radio

33. From knowing I have no guarantee that insurance or pension benefits would ever be shared with the life partner I choose.

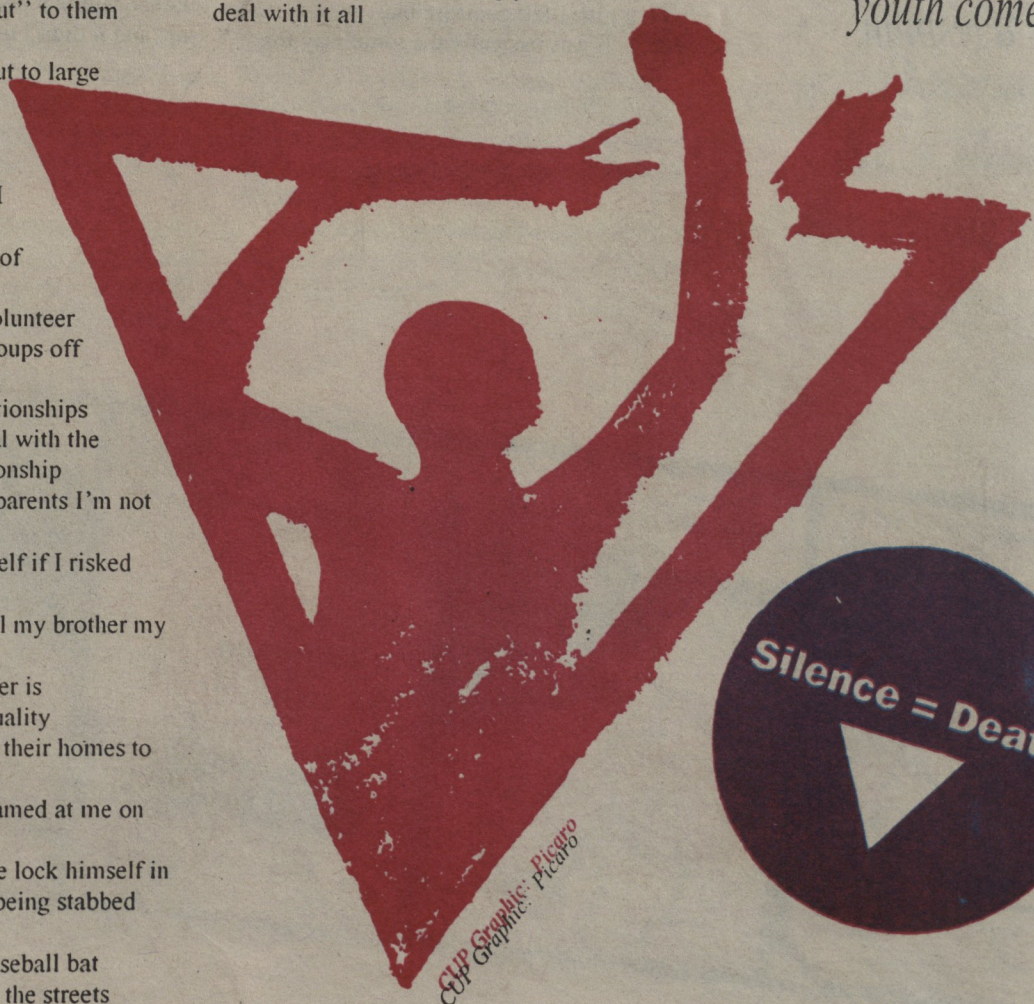
34. From knowing if I loved someone from another country I couldn't marry them so they could live here with me

35. From knowing that censorship of expression my sexuality is most often legal

36. From having to be an advocate for gay and lesbian issues

37. From sometimes feeling powerless to deal with it all

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