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known for specifically targeting Black gays and killing them to the same degree as white homophobes. This is a trend that many Blacks associate with white homophobes; the examples are too many to mention. I am not saying that Blacks are not as hostile to Black gays and lesbians, but the response is a little more subtle than most white gays and lesbians realize. The type of abuse is different. It is more about isolation and exclusion. However, in gen-

eral it has to be said that Blacks kill each other for less political reasons: wrong neighborhood, wrong color clothing, you know, all those intelligent reasons.

**How did editing this book change your own views about "identity politics"?**

It's difficult to give a sound bite response to this question because identity is relative. It depends on the context in which I find myself.

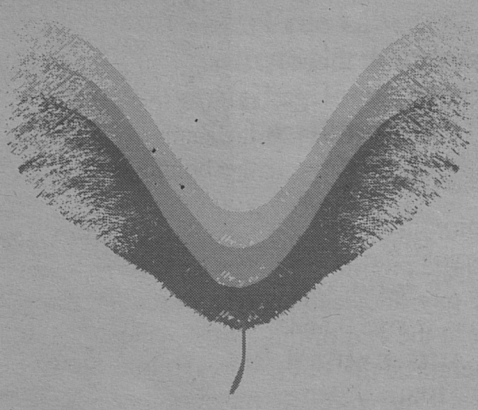
Moreover, my views on identity haven't really changed, it's just that I'm more aware of the fact that my identity is often in the eyes of the beholder. How I negotiate that identity depends on what is at stake, especially when it's your life.

However, I am hoping that this book will allow every one of us to recognize and acknowledge the diversity of Black sexuality and move away from the shackles of religion as a means of reinforcing homophobic views.

If you could wave a magic wand and right the wrongs that have been done to Black gays by the Black community, what would you change first? What would you change to start righting the wrongs that have been done to Black queer people by the white queer community?

If I had a magic wand there would be no wrongs to be righted by any community for any reason whatsoever. But in response to the question: make it illegal for preachers to use the Bible as a moral battering ram to justify homophobia under the guise of an abomination.

*Delroy Constantine-Simms can be reached at [Delroy@blacknet.co.uk](mailto:Delroy@blacknet.co.uk)*



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foundation of vermont

**Our Mission**

The Samara Foundation of Vermont is a charitable foundation whose mission is to support and strengthen Vermont's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities today and build an endowment for tomorrow.

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