

Freedom (from page 1)

the reason for the separation. What I had so greatly feared became one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. My son said, "Dad, I am so glad you are not ashamed to be gay". Later my daughter was to say how glad she was that I had gotten the heavy burden off my shoulders and wrote "I love you Dad, and I do not care who your are, what you do, who your friends are, I will always love you dearly".

After telling my children, I realized that I no longer cared who in the whole world knew that I was gay. So marching the Gay Pride Parade was my final step in celebrating the inner and outer freedom to be me, a person with homosexual preferences.

While it is not practical or wise for many gays to come out completely, it would be great if each gay could first of all experience inner freedom and no longer have to hide a dark secret and then simply not tell in places where it would be foolish to do so. There is a tremendous emotional and psychological difference in "not telling" and keeping "a closely guarded secret".

The journey to this point has been very painful and I experience pain as I continue to grow and seek deeper relationships with friends. But as Gibran reminds us, joy and sorrow go together and I would agree and testify that the joy is worth the pain!

The freedom of coming out is beautiful!

[I was diagnosed as having full-blown AIDS two years ago. How grateful I am that I had moved to Burlington. I am enjoying "Living with AIDS" in the midst of beautiful Vermont and many beautiful people!]

UNFAIRNESS

Fairness. That's all we're asking for. Protection from unfair discrimination in jobs and housing. An end to anti-gay violence. Immigration reform. Defeat of bigoted laws denying human dignity and equal justice to lesbians and gay men.

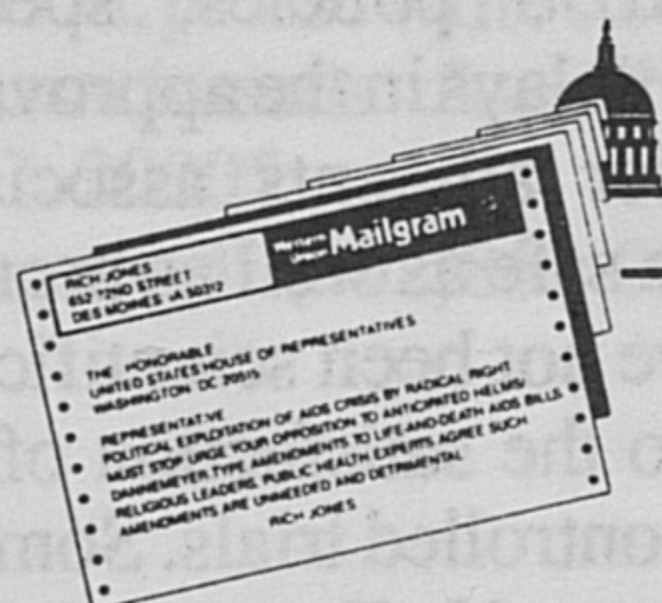
It isn't too much to ask. But far-right zealots have flooded Congress with anti-gay mail and we lose too often. You can change this.

FIGHT BACK FOR FAIRNESS.

CALL
1-800-257-4900

Send Congress a message. Ask for Operator 9188.
Choose a prepared mailgram. Only \$4.50 each, charged to your telephone.
If you don't know who your legislator is, the operator does.

CALL NOW!



The *Speak Out* mailgram campaign is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. For further info, contact the Field Division, HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4160.

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