

# Personal Perspectives

## Coming Out in the Computer Age

by Rick Wold

I got a letter the other day from an old high school friend who has lived in California for many years. Very occasionally we have kept up to date on changes of address or job. We haven't seen each other in ages.

This letter, however, gave me a great idea, because even though it was very personal - "Dear Rick," "Rick" this and "Rick" that - it was obviously a form letter that all his old friends and relatives got.

I thought to myself, *What a way to come out, all at once to all my friends and relatives in one easy letter!*

Dear \*first name\*,

How have things been in \*town\*, \*state\*? Things here in northern Vermont are going pretty darn well. Of course it is cold, but that is to be expected. I just wanted

to drop you a line, \*first name\*, to let you to know what has *really* been going on in my life.

As you may have noticed, (my mother certainly has pointed it out many times), I am not married, nor have I fathered any children. It's not that I'm against marriage, or kids, it's just that... well, how do I put this, \*first name\*.... I'm gay! I am still the same basic person you have known all these years, you just know one more thing about me now.

So, hopefully the next time I come to \*town\*, \*state\* I can bring my lover; he is really a nice guy and I'm sure you'll like him.

Regards, Rick.

There... nice and clean, no mess, no embarrassing moments fumbling for the

right words and wondering if they will understand or, as in most cases, sort of already had figured it out. Just use a data base and a word processor and all of your relatives and friends can be informed at the same time! And if you don't put a picture of Ed McMahon on the envelope, most people will barely notice that it's not personal, despite the personal information contained in the letter!

But even though I am a technology kind of guy, when it comes to love, I am sort of old-fashioned and romantic, so a form letter just doesn't seem to be the right way to tell real friends and family. It will take a little longer the old way, and hopefully my friends will think I'm worth the extra time it takes to get to know the REAL me.

## Planning Underway for Stonewall Anniversary

On February 2-3, 1991, the initial planning meeting for Stonewall 25 was held at the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Over seventy activists met to plan Stonewall 25, a month-long series of events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the birth of the modern lesbian and gay rights movement.

The march on Sunday, June 26, 1994, is expected to be the largest lesbian and gay event in history. The Gay Games IV, which will open the day before, will attract over 12,000 athletes and 60,000 spectators from our 40 countries.

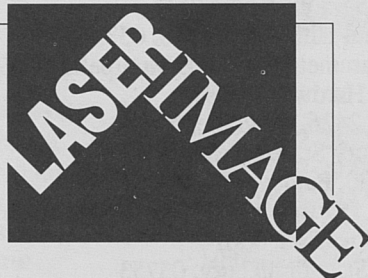
Many other groups will present special Stonewall 25 events, including a concert of over 500 musicians from the Lesbian/Gay Bands of America, a mammoth worship service hosted by the Universal Fellowship

of Metropolitan Community Churches (of which Vermont has a chapter, Northern Lights), and conventions by prominent gay and lesbian groups.

In addition, the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators has agreed that those cities which usually hold their Pride Day events on the last weekend in June will reschedule their festivities in 1994.

To make sure that we are represented in all our diversity and strength, the Stonewall 25 organizers are calling on everyone to be in New York on June 25-26, 1994.

Morris Knight, a longtime gay activist, summarized Stonewall 25 as "our last great chance in this century to do something so great, so mystical, that everyone for the rest of their lives will be enchanted by it."



DESKTOP PUBLISHING  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
TRAINING & SUPPORT

- full service ■ self service
- mac-pc file conversions
- image and text scanning
- laser printing
- quality photocopies
- fax services
- great looking resumes
- color slide presentations
- mac training workshops
- professional, friendly service

187 St. Paul St. Burlington VT

802.863.1884



Susan Franz, M.A.  
Kate O'Brien, M.S.  
Psychotherapists

Individual  
Couples  
Family  
Group

15 Pinecrest Drive Essex Junction, VT 05452 802/878-4399