

Companion Pieces

Continued from page 17

Thank you for summoning the courage to talk about your fears concerning AIDS. Thanks for asking me if I am being safe.

Thank you for living a life of attraction and not promotion, and for that night when you told me twelve ways I might learn to do the same. I'm six years clean this month, and you had a LOT to do with that.

Thank you for telling me that you no longer think of my sexuality as an issue unto itself, but rather as something which is simply a part of my whole.

Thank you for cooking Thanksgiving dinner for eleven of my friends and being so relaxed and comfortable with them. And thanks for coming back and doing a repeat performance.

Thank you for sending a Christmas stocking for me...and one for Peter.

Thank you, in general, for educating yourself, and, having done so, coming to truly understand and accept.

I never told you this before, but when I was about twelve years old, I saw an ar-

ticle in Time magazine about a Gay Protest March in New York City. I don't remember a word of what it said, but I was intrigued — no, blown away, more like — by the photograph which accompanied it. It was of a woman, marching in the parade and holding a sign which said, "My son's gay and that's OK." Although at the time I was already pretty clued-in as to my sexuality, I was still despising myself for it, and couldn't ever imagine marching in such a parade, as if being gay was something to be proud of. Certainly it was way beyond my comprehension that a mother would do such a thing.

I hope this helps you see the force of my gratitude when, 18 years later, you marched in the San Francisco Gay Pride parade with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Thank you, Mom, for your tireless loving support as I went through all of this, and for all those times you loved me when I was having trouble loving myself.

I'll strive always to make you as proud of me as I am of you.

Grey ▼


Opening the Doors to Understanding

Dot Brauer

OITM readers who are involved with public education please note: The Vermont Department of Education is sponsoring a conference entitled "Opening the Doors to Understanding: Meeting the Needs of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students in Our Schools." The conference will take place on May 4, at the Cortina Inn in Mendon, VT.

The mailing for this conference will be sent out during April (I am writing this March 31st) and your school should receive several copies (guidance counselor, health educator, nurse, principal, etc.) so you should be able to track down a copy of the brochure. If you call Lucille Chicoine at the Department of Education Prevention and Wellness Unit.




The staff of Outright Vermont has been working closely with the committee that was formed to plan this conference from the beginning. We feel it will be a great opportunity for glb educators to perceive the level of support that exists. It will be especially valuable for heterosexual school personnel who want to help improve the climate for glb youth in their schools but don't know where to begin. If you are unable to attend, please find a way to encourage others to attend. Our hope is that as many schools as possible will be represented. ▼



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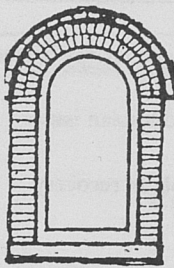




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