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LGBT Column Reader's Responses

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Gay thanks

To the Cigar:

I was very happy to hear that you will be featuring a regular column about gay people in your newspaper. As an alumnus and former member of Kingston Gay Liberation (now defunct), I am glad that there is something happening to help those who are gay on campus.

Gay people are under unfair attack by such people as Anita Bryant who use their notoriety to lie about an already abused minority. Gay people need more

access to the media to tell their story.

For years we have been trying to get national attention, and we only get it when Anita comes along. So far, we have not had equal access to national media to tell our own story.

Tony Caporaletti

(Ed. note) The Cigar will print any column of general interest that is accurate, fair and comprehensible. In order to adhere to this policy, the Cigar cannot promise to print a regular column on any subject, as many University organizations have learned.

Dec. 2,
1977

Gay column

12/6/77

To the Cigar:

R. Creasy's sharing notes in the Nov. 29 issue were not only refreshing and rational; they were a positive and courageous statement for individuals coping with self-awareness, change and self-actualization.

Creasy has made a significant contribution to the concept that each person is an individual, a unique being in his own right, who must not be discriminated against on any basis, e.g., age, color, creed, gender, handicap, national origin, race, religion, sexual preference, in any arena of human relationships.

There are already too many lonely people, who have not been able to appreciate and enjoy their uniqueness, and there are all too many instances of unjustified, irrational discriminatory practices and attitudes.

Creasy has taken a step in the direction of helping people to come to grips with the question of "Who am I?" bypassing the myopic, counter-productive question of "What am I?"

The tasks of recognizing the existence of one's uniqueness and of standing up for it by educating people and raising their consciousness are necessary if we are ever to be liberated and from free from fears (our own and each other's).

Stephen D. Grubman

Anti-gay

To the Cigar:

In regards to R. Creasy's article of Nov. 29, may I reply that he is full of baloney when he says that 1,000 gay people read his column. (I would be surprised if 1,000 people read it, period.) What he is implying is that one out of 10 URI students is gay, since there are roughly 10,000 students on campus.

In the war between the gays and the straights, the gays' latest tactic is to make us think they are everywhere, and that it is better to switch than fight.

Well, that just isn't so. Although more are "coming out of the closet" than ever before, homosexuals remain, thankfully, a small minority.

Creasy, I reserve the right to be nauseated by your lifestyle and I don't apologize for my so called "closed mind" on the subject.

Philip W. Noss

More on gays

To the Cigar:

As a former student at URI and a former Cigar staff member, I am pleased to hear that the Cigar has run a column devoted to gay issues.

Today lesbians and gay men face a tightly organized, well-financed attack on our human rights. Gay people are being slandered and maligned by Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" organization and other right-wing groups.

It's heartening to find that

some journalists are aware of their responsibility to counter the spread of fear, ignorance and bigotry. The issues of homosexuality and gayrights have been tossed around by people who don't know what they're talking about for long enough. It's time a voice from the gay community itself was heard.

The Cigar editors should be commended for taking a step in the direction of increased understanding between the gay and straight communities. I wish the new columnist, R. Creasy, much luck and I hope the Cigar will continue to be responsive to oppressed people.

Annette Gagne