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## Dear Parents: Your child is gay

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R.  
Creasy

Dear Parents: *Feb 21, 1978*  
*Cigar*  
Your child is gay

Dear Mom and Dad,  
Hi! Hope this finds all well at home. Everything's fine here. Classes are going well.

For the longest time I've had something on my mind that I've needed to share with you. But somehow I never felt that I could tell you. I've felt this way ever since I can remember, but felt that I must submerge my feelings because society told me that these feelings were perverse. Maybe you've already figured out what I'm going to say. Maybe as parents you've known intuitively all along.

Yes, I'm gay. But please notice that I use the word *gay* instead of *homosexual*. I do this because I am happy with my sexuality. I feel not only comfortable with it, but it is now second nature to me.

In fact, you may want to read "Loving Someone Gay" by Dr. Don Clark. Dr. Clark says it best: "I am Gay and that means that I know that I am able to involve myself emotionally, sensuously, erotically, and intellectually with someone of the same gender. It does not mean that I am unable to have satisfying heterosexual relationships." In other words, being gay is a capability to love someone of the same sex, not an incapability to love someone of the opposite sex.

I know that you're thinking "What did we do wrong? Maybe we lived in the wrong neighborhood, let you play with the wrong kids, didn't send you to church enough, etc." All parents make "errors" in bringing up their children, but the truth of the matter is that no one really knows what determines one's sexuality.

You're probably wondering, in fact, "What causes homosexuality?" But no one ever asks the latter question because they presuppose that homosexuality is bad and that heterosexuality is good. In my eyes I see no way that loving another human being can be wrong. Didn't you always teach me that love is beautiful and right?

No, I don't need to talk to a psychiatrist. A psychiatrist cannot change me. (Furthermore, I've worked too hard to understand my sexuality as it is to even desire to be "changed".) Did you know that the American Psychiatric Association says that homosexuality is not a sickness? At this point I have thought about my sexuality and analyzed it to the point that it is second nature to me. It is just another aspect of my personality, one that you had not known previously.

The campus gay group - "Gay Student's Coalition" - is largely responsible for my growth as a (gay) human being. My friends in this group have helped me to see the good things in my life and all the good things about being gay. I truly love each and everyone of these people.

I also know that you're worried about my future and that being gay can be difficult in today's society. I can only agree with the latter statement. Thank God, however, that society has progressed as much as it has. There are currently many

favorable attitude changes toward gay people occurring in society. Gay is not as bad as it once was. People are becoming more receptive. I realize, however, that the struggle to be gay (especially to find jobs, housing, etc.) can be difficult. But you know me - I'll fight for my rights till the day I die. Besides, who said that life was going to be easy for anyone; gay, straight or bi?

Well, I know that you're (at the least) very concerned about me now. I do know that above all you'll remember that I'm your child and that you love me and that I'm a pretty nice human being. People would be so much better off if they would cast aside their prejudices and realize that we are all human beings and that we all should love one another.

I also realize that my sexuality is now weighing heavily upon your minds. I understand this and apologize for this. But remember, I grew up this way. There were about twelve years of knowing that I was gay and that society hated me for it. And what hurt most of all was the feeling of lying to you and to myself because I could never stand up and say, "I'm Gay!" I know that it will take time for you to come to terms with this. But keep thinking about it. Read about it. It can only help all of us to grow more as human beings.

Lots of Love!

*The Cigar welcomes submissions for publication. All copy must be triple-spaced and typewritten. Photographs or graphics must be black and white. The Cigar also holds weekly staff meetings Sundays at 8:30 p.m. in the newspaper's Memorial Union offices. Any interested member of the University is invited to attend.*