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Kamrah addressed

To the Cigar: 2/20/78

Whatever the outcome of Blue Jeans Day, I must address a number of assertions made by S. Kamrah in his column, "Homosexuality: Distortion of Moral Normality:

1. Society does not express 'indifference' toward gay people's affectional and sexual preferences. Based on recent communications by some members of society, in the Cigar, as well as in police departments, city councils, etc., it would seem that hostility, censorship, and misunderstanding would be more appropriate labels for society's expressions.

2. S. Kamrah has used stereotypic imagery when he refers to "unabashed ostentation". Surely, he is aware that any group including the group to which the individual belongs—namely, the universe, contains a few members who freely express themselves in unabashed ostentation".

3. So much has been made of the National Gay Task Force's request that jeans be worn on a selected day. One of the purposes of the request, I believe was to raise our consciousness and to help people know what it is to be inconvenienced. The request was not for "urgent public approval". Rather, it was for public awareness of the issues in the gay peoples' rights movement.

4. I found the author's analogous items "pornography and prostitution", strange. By emphasizing "sexual appetites", Kamrah limits the human potential of us all to the sexual arena.

5. Discrimination, regardless against whom, is what is morally and legally wrong. The National Gay Task Force is attempting to educate the public about a discriminated minority. Actual figures are difficult to obtain, mainly because of the threat of reprisal and discrimination against gay people. I suggest that if Kamrah does not believe that discrimination exists, he read other newspapers and Rechy's Sexual Outlaw, for starters.

6. S. Kamrah uses several paragraphs to discuss 'values' and 'rules' and 'healthy sexuality'. He refers to West's book, in which West tries to "explain" homosexuality. I question West's sample, both the number and milieu. Probably, it was a biased sample, in which the people 'examined' had problems, perhaps one of which was adjusting to life.

With a reference here and there, Kamrah makes the giant jump in assertions to refer to homosexuality as an "injury to healthy functioning, a severe distortion of human personality". Surely, the author is not serious. (Then again, perhaps he is. That is one more reason for 'Gay Blue Jeans Day', to increase one's awareness and knowledge.)

It is still amazing how some people continue to deny to themselves and to others that freedom of choice and preference (and not "social indifference or continuous exposure to homosexual role models") are at the root of gay people's rights.

7. Although there are a number of contradictions in Kamrah's article, his conclusion that society should "grant tolerance (and approval) to homosexual behavior" is the most startling.

He stated that there is no

discrimination against gay people. If that is true, why is there such a furor against gay people? Why is there such resistance to 'Gay Blue Jeans Day'? Why is there a minor hue and cry against an "infringement of students' individual rights" because they are inconvenienced for one day. Gay people's rights is an issue of individual rights. Judging from some of the responses to the idea, I think the Gay Task Force's point was eloquently made.

8. Kamrah stated that "there has been no overt dislike towards homosexuality" on this 'healthy campus'. I suggest that if he would like to sample the level of functioning and discrimination on campus that he read the graffiti in some men's room. It contains sexist, racist and anti-gay statements, reflecting a violent, hateful, power playing attitude toward women, non-whites, and gay people. There is overt dislike.

I appreciate the opportunity to have had these responses published. Hopefully, they have decreased the distortions of an issue that is neither a moral one nor a health one. Rather, gay rights is a civil rights issue much more relevant to individual rights than most people realize or admit.

Stephen David Grubman