

# Sex club would require serious interest

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I've never been what you'd call a "flaming" heterosexual. I have to admit I relate to bisexuals better than the strictly homo or hetero among my friends, and in some ways "bi" seems the most natural way to be, to me.

Still, I've never made love to a man — I guess that pretty much bars me from the queer club.

I find that disappointing because ever since I found out there were student groups specifically for queer students, I've been jealous. I want to join a club that centers on sexual expression, too.

I realize there are strong social and political issues that revolve around the homosexual issue, but you have to admit it's got a little to

do with who you sleep with. Or at least who you'd like to sleep with. And that's enough to make the whole phenomenon of gay/lesbian



organizations kind of cool and a little weird. Before there were student queer clubs there weren't a n y

so "out" in the straight community. But now that queer students have shown the way, I don't see why they should be the only ones to play.

I want to start a sex club. It would be a student organization and have a volunteer staffed office in the Nebraska Union. It would be a place for those who like sex — or who would like to learn to like sex better — to gather and talk about the issues of sex and sexual expression.

You think I'm kidding, but I'm

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not. Anyone would be welcome. The only criterion: a serious interest in sex.

There would be a lot of emphasis on becoming more sensitive and better lovers. Women and men, both queer and straight, would be encouraged to speak frankly about what they would like to see happen in the field of sex. Everyone would be encouraged to take into consideration the feelings and desires, even the fears, of others.

The danger is that sex might become over-intellectualized. We

wouldn't want to do that.

So we would sponsor social gatherings as well as seminars — we'd have potlucks and dances; hire bands, rent halls and turn the lights down low.

I think it's a great idea.

Because a lot of people could use a little liberation, and not just the straights among us.

There are all kinds of closets to come out of. The closet is awfully big and until there's some place, some venue for all of us to talk about the things that trouble us or turn us on there's going to be a lot of people fumbling around among the old shoes, winter coats and dusty cardboard boxes.

The first step out of the closet has got to be to turn on the light.



While not a legal family Tam & Sue do try to instill family values in their children.



You may have questions & strange feelings that you haven't had before. That's O.K., that's natural. But at this point we prefer you don't act on those feelings, but if you do, please act responsibly.

Do you understand what we're getting at?



## In or out? Coming out vs. outing sparks controversy in homosexual community

Celebrity, Public Servant, Religious Leader, Homosexual.

Why did I out you? Can you possibly be asking that question as you shield your face from the flashing bulbs and pressing microphones? Your denial of my accusations is futile. Now will you listen to me?

As a celebrity, you possessed power and influence that I could only dream of. You were a role model and a familiar face to millions of people. But you were a false role model, hiding your true self from your public.

My refusal to hide my identity stripped me of my rights. Every day that I fought to regain these rights, I saw you enjoying these rights and ignoring my fight. Every day, I grew angrier.

By outing you, I have affected millions of people in a way I could never have done alone. Millions of people now know someone who is gay. Outing you was a necessity. That's my fight.

As my public servant, I asked you, begged you to hear my voice. I never requested special privileges, only the same rights guaranteed everyone else. Time and again, you let me down. You were elected to serve the people. I'm a taxpayer. You are my servant too.

You said that your private life was your own business. My refusal to hide in shame made me a victim of your politics. My private life became your business, and that made your private life my business.

By outing you, I have only subjected you to the restrictions of your own policies — the policies you helped perpetuate and refused to help eliminate.

As my religious leader, I pleaded with you to accept me. You called me "sinner," ordered repentance, and refused acceptance. With passion, you denounced me and my people. Pointing a condemning finger, you not only rejected me from your world, but condoned my extermination.

Millions of people heard your voice and rallied behind you and your prejudice. By outing you I have exposed the hypocrisy of your organization. By outing you I have returned the hatred you have slung at me. Outing you was a pleasure. That's my fight.

— Matt Govig is a UNL alumni and Diversions contributor.

Every time I come out in any situation, it is a decision I question very thoroughly. Coming out is something I consider to be very personal.

Coming out for me also involves an inherency of politics because being a lesbian automatically makes me political.

When I think about the concept of outing, I think about both its personal and political ramifications.

I believe that when someone is outed, it takes away their personal right to choose whether to come out or not.

It will affect them politically, because it will change society's perception of them forever.

If I had been outed before I was ready to come out, the personal ramifications would have made my life extremely difficult.

I probably would have lost my family's love. I might have lost my job. I would have lost the support of many of my friends. And I might even have become the target of gay bashing.

No one has the right to put me or the people in my life through any of these situations.

It is almost impossible not to internalize the homophobic doctrine we all are brought up to believe. We see the hatred, hear the jokes and witness the beatings. How can a person not be afraid of life outside of the closet?

This fear is justified by the fact that, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 62 people were murdered in the United States in 1989 because of their same-sex orientation.

If a person is not emotionally ready to cope with this persecution, the emotional scars can be devastating. I have heard too many stories of individuals, outed by the military, who have taken their lives because they believed they were incapable of surviving after being outed.

The possibility that one life may be lost because of outing is a risk that I am not willing to take for any cause.

— Lise Johnston is a forestry major and Diversions contributor.

### FACE OFF

