

tion of homosexuality

bisexual and other members of the royal family were involved in homosexual activities.

Homosexuality has been prevalent in history and there have always been questions regarding the morality of the act. Perhaps one could see it in the same light as premarital and extramarital sex. Both were, and probably still are, considered sinful by certain segments of society. These sexual taboos have always been broken and lately a new age has emerged as a result of the breaking of these taboos.

But then again, the oldest profession in the world never suffered as a result of these moral taboos; just ask Xaviera Hollander (she'll tell you all about it). However, one still hears about the young Christian girl who became pregnant and had to face the social backlash against her deviant, sinful act.

It was a shame to the family, the community and would be a mark against her for the rest of her life. She was no longer a virgin and unless the man who did it married her she would be doomed. This usually resulted in what is commonly called a shotgun marriage and if not that, perhaps suicide or a trip to New York.

Due to changing ethics and the pill,

(which the Roman Catholic Church still opposes), many of the taboos against premarital and extramarital sex are disappearing. Society has begun to alter its morals. Some people claim we are on the road to Sodom and Gemorrah or another great flood as the result of these changing morals; others say we are in the Age of Aquarius.

Whatever the case, the taboos of premarital, extramarital and homosexual sex are part of the philosophy of the western world. These cultural taboos have existed for a long time and have only begun to be criticized and questioned. We are in a time of transition and even the capitalistic state is being questioned? How much longer must we keep up the facade which has oppressed the liberation and the struggle for equality of people?

How much longer must the homosexuals remain in their closets? How many moreskeletons are hiding or being kept hidden? Gays are coming out. People in history who have been gay include Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Richard I and Oscar Wilde.

Recently, people who have made statements regarding their sexual orientations are David Bowie, Elton John, Joan Baez; all of whom have stated that they are bisexual. Tennessee Williams has stated his homosexuality. Eugene Ionesco has come out as a strong supporter of gays. Marlon Brando is considered by many to be gay. Other possibilities include Rock Hudson and Jim Nabors. Whatever the case may be, there are still many gays who are still in hiding. Why? Because it is still safer to play according to society's moral code and behavior.

Many a homosexual will marry a woman as a front or because they believe they are alone being so "weird". This is at great cost to themselves and to their spouses. Some marry or go out with women because some counsellors will suggest to them that they can get over their "abnormality" if they go out and get it on with a woman. Is there not the reasoning that the number of women you have had under the belt, makes you a man? Crude recommendations by psychiatrists, peers, and family pressure often force this coverup to exist. Many hear what the stereotype of gays are and since they don't fill the description they feel they're not gay.

The stereotype gay has always been the effeminate looking and acting male. Some are like that. Some put on effeminate mannerisms. But then there have been a number of football stars who have stated they were gay. Which blows the rationale of gays looking effeminate.

Being gay is still a stigma. It wasn't until 1969 that Prime Minister Trudeau repealed the laws governing homosexual behavior. The law was passed that consenting adults over the age of 21 could have the sex contact in private rooms. Trudeau stated, "the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation."

Most gay-rights advocates can thank Trudeau for his position in '69, however, there was a discrepancy — the age of consent was different for homosexuals than heterosexuals.

Discriminatory actions are still practiced by the immigration authorities. Known homosexuals will not be allowed to immigrate into Canada. The R.C.M.P. and armed forces do not allow known homosexuals within the ranks.

That is not to say it doesn't exist.

The foreign service will not hire gays because they would be subject to blackmail. If you are subject to blackmail you are a security risk and security risks are not allowed.

One almost wonders if Big Brother is keeping a file on sexual orientations.

Edmonton gays have felt the stigma of being what they are. Several have been beaten at various clubs by nongays who are out to lynch a gay. Eight months ago a gay lost an eye when he was assaulted in a similar situation. The police arrived ¾ of an hour later and there were no apprehensions or charges

laid. Why? The gay person was vulnerable and he did not want to lose his job within the government if the circumstances of the incident were reported.

Edmonton police do not harass gays, but what has been stated is "they do not respond quickly enough to calls from gay establishments which are being harassed by nongays. It is not a question of being harassed, it is rather a question of not doing anything when being harassed."

The *Journal* has rejected advertisements from G.A.T.E. But it has also accepted them on several occasions. The point is G.A.T.E. has had trouble advertising in this Southam-Selkirk newspaper. Why? One of the answers was G.A.T.E. had no license. I have notices that Gentlemens Adventures has placed several advertisements but they have a license.

One can see gays are having problems in our society, as they have had in the past. This is the reason gays have banded as a collective force in a struggle for equality. They are oppressed and are attempting to change the inequality that exists.

Gay advocates should be congratulated for coming out of the closets and facing overwhelming odds against them.

Three years ago, the Edmonton Lean Feminists merged with G.A.T.E. and one finds both sexes fighting in their struggle for civil rights. Delegates are sent to the annual Gayrights conference (the last one was in Toronto). In the last conference was a period of self evaluation in which specific demands were written which could have effect on the Criminal Code of Canada, the Federal Labour Law, Canadian Human Rights and the Canadian Bill of Rights.

G.A.T.E. is working with the Alberta Federation of Labour the Alberta Human Rights Commission to alter changes by the Alberta government in the Individual Rights Protection Act. Neil Crawford, minister of labour, and other MLA's will be the deciding social and moral judges on the sexual orientation clause.

G.A.T.E. manages to function basically on informal donations. Most of the donations come from gays who have come out of the closets physically, mentally and financially in their cause for gay rights. It is a nonprofit organization acting as a community service with information such as periodicals and novels. The bookstore is still in the making but there are books that are not available elsewhere. There is free and confidential counselling, a referral list of doctors, psychiatrists and members of the clergy, a speakers bureau which has had many engagements at the university, Grant MacEwan and nursing schools. It is an organization fighting for civil rights and a social place with info on other social clubs. For further information one can write Box 1852, Edmonton, or phone 433-8160 or visit the centre at room 214 8225 - 109 St. between 7-10 p.m.

Their cause is to be understood. It is through an awareness of consciousness that a tolerance level can be established. gay liberation movement believes that through visibility, this invisible minority can achieve their cause. The acceptance of their way of life might not come in their lifetimes.

Gay liberation is young but noticeable progress has been made and can be seen. Members of G.A.T.E. mentioned "their children might live to be better people." I asked, how would children be reproduced? The reply: "through adoptions of children, or children from a previous marriage, or an arrangement where a lesbian or a homosexual would decide which child would go to whom and whether it be through artificial or natural insemination."

It is certainly a new concept in morals. Also, it was mentioned that gays receive the most reaction from people who have doubts of their own sexual identity.

