

July 20, 1998

C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

As the proud and loving mother of a lesbian daughter I am writing this letter to object to the use of your moderators, and their failure to correct callers' use of the term "lifestyle" when referring to those of the gay and lesbian persuasion. I am never surprised at the ignorance of the American public, but I am shocked at all of you for allowing this to pass unchallenged.

First and foremost, if homosexuality is indeed a lifestyle choice why, in heaven's name would anyone "choose" to subject themselves to such harassment and misery? It doesn't really make sense, does it?

In the second place, the "lifestyle" of my daughter and her monogamous partner consists of going to work, working in their house and garden, caring for their dogs and cats, going to movies and renting videos, having friends to their lovely home for dinner and visiting others, hiking, biking, reading and traveling. Dangerous? I don't think so.

My daughter asked me when she was twelve years old if I thought she could be gay and in my ignorance I laughed it off. She told me when she was nineteen that she was indeed gay, and I have carried the guilt ever since of not being there to support her through those painful and difficult intervening years of coming to grips with the fact that she was "different". She is thirty-nine now, a warm and giving nurse practitioner, dedicated to her patients and loved and respected by them in turn.

Homosexuality is NOT a choice or a lifestyle. A "straight" person cannot be turned into a gay person by tapping the red shoes together, nor can gay people miraculously become heterosexual. If you doubt me speak to those in a position to know, do some research. Do Not continue to allow a small and virulent minority of society to continue to spread their

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ignorant and uninformed bigotry. What is happening to gay people in this country is beginning to sound and feel more and more like the Nazi Germany of the 1930's. I feel fortunate that I have the means to move myself, my daughter and her partner to a more civilized country, but God help those who do not. It seems ironic that people came to this country to escape religious bigotry and we may be leaving it for the same same reason.

I feel that those with the exposure and power of the media should be using it to educate the public, if not by formal teaching at least by example. You are a sad example.

Sincerely yours,

