



TO BE OUT

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This is a zine about coming out and families.

From Milk's call to arms to Bunch's mass mailing. From Pavlosky's endurance to Rustin's self-acceptance to Bornstein's kind heart. We see the stories, both the closeness and the divide, that coming out revolves around.

This is a zine that features the following:

Harvey Milk in *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984)

Charlotte Bunch in *Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch* (2011)

David Pavlosky in *Don't Bring Scott* (2010)

Bayard Rustin in *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin* (2003)

Kate Bornstein in *Kate Bornstein is a Queer & Pleasant Danger* (2014)

Teresa Sadowska - Poem: *Coming Out* (2019)

To Be Out

by Teresa Sadowska

Thanks to

Professor Tami Gold, David Pavlosky, MEDIA296, and Hunter College

And special thanks to Milo Nauman, ♡

for all your help & for how happy you make my heart



AP/WIDE WORLD

Gay brothers and sisters...You must come out.

Come out... to your parents...

I know that it is hard and will hurt them

but think about how they will hurt you in the voting booth!

Come out to your relatives... come out to your friends...

if indeed they are your friends.

...

But once and for all, break down the myths,
destroy the lies and distortions.

For your sake.

For their sake.

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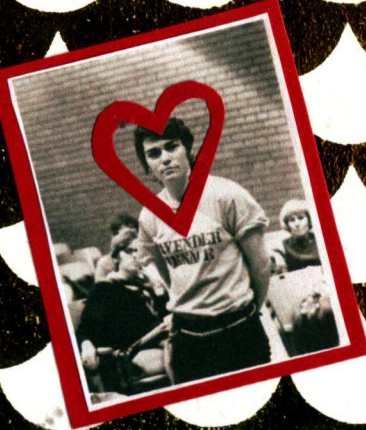
If a bullet should enter my brain,



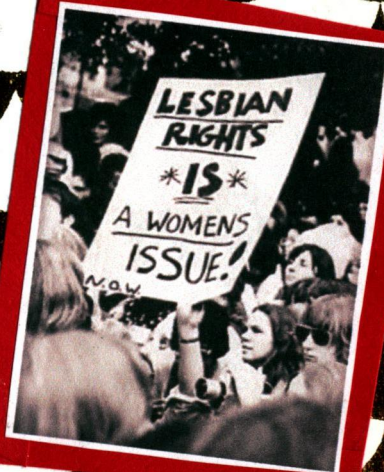
let that bullet destroy every closet door in the country.



"So a lot of what happened as coming out as a lesbian was just to suddenly immerse myself for the first time in a world where sexuality was something that I enjoyed, was something we talked about, was present, and it coincided with really wanting to spend my time with women."

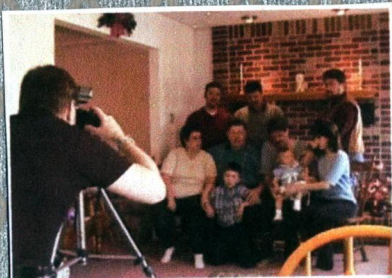


B U N C H

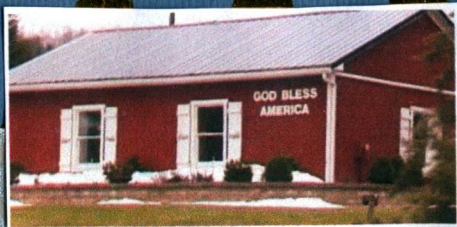


"...and I didn't wanna come out individually, one by one, with everybody and figure it out.

I literally sent out a mass mailing of this letter and I got back a few brave and wonderful responses and a lot of non-responses."



Naturally, I consider you a product of love from me and mom,
and I can't treat you any different than the rest of my sons so
I wasn't about to abandon you and say 'well forget it and never call me.'



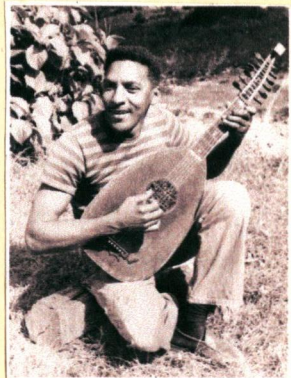
I used to be the one who would tell off-color jokes
and I see it from a different standpoint now
that I have someone in my family.

PAVLOSKY



You guys have come such a long way ...
... It's such a big day for me, because ...
Even I can't believe sometimes how much I have ...

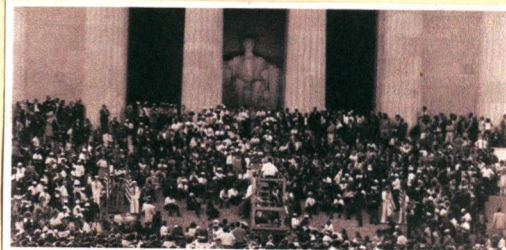
Pent up in you? There's some Kleenex...



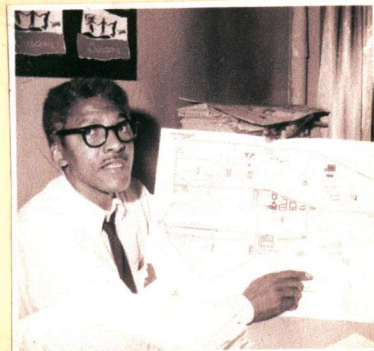
I never said to my grandmother 'You know, I'm gay,'
but I told her that I enjoyed being with guys
at the high school parties.



RUSTIN

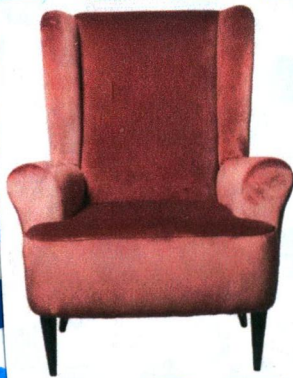


Her reply was, 'I suppose that's what you need to do.'
It was never an encouragement
but it was a recognition, so I never had feelings of guilt."



BORNSTEIN

No matter how your world falls apart
- and that's what happens, baby.
You build a world, it falls apart -
But no matter how that happens, remember,
you always have the kind heart you were born with.



Coming Out

My phone's camera lens is cracked. The pictures show up blue and blurry and I walked home from the train station with the most glorious sunset echoing over the skyline but it remained uncaptured it remains only in my mind, memories digitally altered a sunset of blues and greens. I walked home from the train station with my mother and my queerness remained unspoken remains barely acknowledged, memories haunted by hesitance, an existence never shared.

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