



The Gay Agenda Myth

MYTH:

All LGBTQ individuals are out to recruit other individuals to LGBT lifestyle and infiltrate all levels of societal structures with LGBTQ philosophy.

Fact: Basically, all LGBTQ individuals want the same benefits, rights, and protections as other Americans. LGBTQ individuals have the same agenda that everyone in this nation has: to be free while living here. Free to be who and what we are; to have our unions sanctioned with the same benefits; to not fear death or expect to be an outcast at home, work, and school for simply being different.

Fact: "Being gay involves more than a person's sexual activity. When friends "come out" (reveal their homosexuality) to you, they are essentially inviting you to know them as whole people. If a gay person chooses to come out to you, then that person has decided to share part of his or her identity with you. Such a disclosure means only that this friend trusts you, not that he or she would like to become sexually involved with you.

Fact: The Radical Religious Right has repeatedly referenced an article written by Michael Swift in 1987 at the request of the Gay Community News as satirical "proof" of the so-called "Gay Agenda". The article is titled "The Gay Manifesto". But when the religious right cites this text, they always omit the vital first line, which sets the context for the piece (...*"This essay is an outré, madness, a tragic, cruel fantasy, an eruption of inner rage, on how the oppressed desperately dream of being the oppressor."*). In other words, every other version of this found on the net and in the literature of religious right political activists is part of the radical right's great lie about gay people.

Fact: Goals of many LGBTQ are to see gays and lesbians achieve. Federal domestic partnerships with all the benefits of marriage would be nice. Protection from getting fired is a goal many LGBTQ strive for in our society. For that matter, so would not having to worry about getting kicked out of the house. Allowing gay youth a safe haven at school through the teaching of diversity is a worthy achievement for many LGBTQ individuals. Creating an environment where all gays and lesbians young or old could live openly, without the fear of political, social, or physical repercussions, is a foundational policy many LGBTQ individuals strive to achieve in our life time.