



# Jon's VIEW

*June 2005*

**HAPPY GAY PRIDE MONTH TO ALL !**

I, along with the entire Club 1220 staff would like to wish all of our brothers and sisters a very happy gay pride month. For those of us who have been around for sometime it is something to see where we have come from and just how different

the times are today, and how much we truly have to celebrate. I was listening to a talk show the other day and they were saying how much the marriage issue has put us so far behind in our drive to push that good old GAY AGENDA that they always bring up. I could not disagree with them more - we have not won the right to be equal as married couples, nor are we going to go away or to STOP the fight for our GOD given right to be just as equal as anyone else on this planet. I for one think this is the time for each and every gay,

lesbian, bisexual and transgender to toast each other and our community for where we are in the eyes of most SANE thinking Americans as compared to just 30 years ago when I was looking to open a night club in Walnut Creek.



I would never pass judgment on anyone who chooses not to be an openly gay or lesbian individual - this is our God given right to stay in our

own space and be as safe and comfortable as we can. However, when I think that members of our gay family choose not to be a part of it and yet go out of their way to push their brothers and sisters further back into the closet and do



us harm, that is when my anger rises. I think of our state legislator in northern California who fought every effort that anyone made to make things more equal for gays and lesbians, to earn a living or visit a love one in the hospital. Yet, this closeted gay man thought this was "SPECIAL TREATMENT." Then you find out he has been seeing men all along, been to web sites that may or may not be legal, seeing how it is against the law to hire anyone for sex or in our world it is called an escort. Now this same individual is looking to just be treated like anyone else and be given his privacy and be left alone. These are the people who push our "GAY AGENDA" far back into the closet. I have always said

that whenever you have someone attack our community my advice is to stand back and take a long, long look at who is tossing out the first rock to sink us. This is the person who does NOT want to confront his or her own sexuality. You will find in that person some hidden fear of facing his or her own sexuality. Years ago we would get eggs or rocks thrown at us out in front of the bar. And yet, a year or two later these very same individuals the police arrested for harassing us were now stepping through our club's front

door as a gay person and calling us their brothers and sisters. In their youth they had to show all their straight friends and had to be very vocal about how much they were against /Users/edwinniskanen/Desktop/Pride 3.jpgqueers. Funny how some have to turn on their own community, simply to justify their own hateful actions. The most secure person in their sexual life would never have to show such behavior – straight or gay.

So, in this gay pride month I invite anyone you know, who is part of our family yet loves to stand on the side lines and do us harm to try and turn this person's ways of dealing with us in a more sane manner and take the time to invite that person to get to know what a true family can be like, no matter how the mixture of the family is made up.

If you have not had the pleasure of going to San Francisco and watching the Gay Day Parade then I urge you to do so. I remember my first time was in the back



of a Limo we had entered in the Parade representing the "Hub" in Walnut Creek. People were yelling and asking where the Hub was – and, where the hell was Walnut Creek? When the limo turned on to Market Street I had some friends sitting inside the car viewing the parade from within – they feared showing their faces for fear of losing their jobs or family because they were gay. I remember Ken Dutra was standing next to me as we were given the final inspection by the parade officials - we looked at each other and there were at least half a million people lined up and down Market Street to cheer us all on. We both took in a huge breath and began to throw

bubble gum to the people who were lining the streets. Ken passed away a few years later and gave one long and courageous fight in the process, but he NEVER forgot that moment and often said how proud he was to be a gay man. I invite all of you to somehow, some way take time in celebrating the fact that you are so lucky to be in this huge family that will never go away, no matter how many laws they pass. And for those of you that are yet to take that leap

of faith and become a part of this huge family and be who you really are I also wish all of you a happy Gay pride day. I hope in some small way you will take a moment to give thanks for the country we live in and the rights we stand on today because of those who marched down Market Street and all the other Main Streets of America demanding them. Congratulations to us all. Happy June, Happy Pride month, and please be safe in all areas of your life.



Jon & Champ  
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