

HSGU (HIGH SCHOOL GAYS UNITED) is an organization for the purpose of bringing together all Homosexual high school students, and gay people under 18 years of age, female and male.

A separate segment of the gay movement is being formed because, although there are several people in the gay community who can be contacted by phone or mail, many of these do not want to become involved in any way with people under 18 for fear of being charged with "contributing to the delinquency of a minor". The mere fact that they cannot give us the help we seek IS contributing to our delinquency and possible self-destruction by leading us into reinforced depression and loneliness, hostility for the society that forces us to hide, and in some instances excessive drinking, drug abuse--and maybe even suicide for others.

Being gay and in high school presents many problems, the worst of which, in my opinion, is having to hide our sexual identity. We cannot reveal ourselves without running the risk of harassment and rejection by peers and teachers, the first of which hurts more deeply. We cannot walk arm in arm with our lovers as heterosexuals do without being ostracized. A generally quite, non-joining type of person's loneliness is augmented because of the "front" he or she has to build. The outgoing class officer or member of the Student Council is forced into a "role"-- a code of behavior dictated and reinforced by the heterosexual student body. Many popular students who do not want their homosexuality discovered may "go steady" with members of the opposite sex who are in the same limelight simply to limit suspicion and maintain a "straight" reputation; and they are miserable because they must hide their natural preference and portray a different person. Many become ashamed of their homosexuality and think it is a sickness; but, on the other hand, there are many who are proud and want it to be recognized as a lifestyle-- a way of expressing love for a person.

During adolescence and early teen years, some people experience a phase of homosexuality which usually consists of a "crush" on or admiration for a member of the same sex. HSGU is not suggesting that everyone with a degree of homosexuality restrict himself or herself to a homosexual pattern; but being able to discuss one's feelings can eliminate some of the guilt and fear that may prevail at the time of coming out. Perhaps some people will discover that the heterosexual life suits them better. That is fine. But, perhaps if a group like HSGU is not within reach, a lot of confusion will still remain.

Many young gay women and men get caught in the "Butch-fem(me)" syndrome in which a person is either ultra-masculine (tough, aggressive, domineering) or super-feminine (submissive, fearful, quiet). Some people are this way from a very early age and to them, it is natural; yet others groping for security choose this as a means--and it usually does not work out. A person simply cannot be something he or she is not.

HSGU, then, is functioning for several reasons: to give homosexuals under the age of 18 a way to socialize with people their own ages, to give them a phone and/or address to contact where they know they will not be turned away because of their ages, and most of all to give them the security they need and the assurance that there ARE others like themselves who are fighting the same battles.

June, 1972

For more information, call: 354-1555, or 354-1556 ; Saturdays: 282-3294
or write: HSGU

c/o P.O Box 217
Dorchester Center Station
Boston, Mass., 02124