BEING GAY IN YOUR WORLD

Taking the format used by other minority groups, I will try to express to you what it's like to be homosexual in your world. I don't speak for all gays but only for myself. I am your borther, your best friend or your roommate but I must hide it from you. You make me. Try to understand what I am feeling.

Being Gay is to be condemned by the church as sinful, by psychologists as pathological, and by the law as criminal.

Being Gay is to live two separate lives never being able to be completely honest in either.

Being Gay is to listen to your friends talk about queers and make jokes about effeminate males as you stand there and know if they only knew the truth they would be saying the same things about you.

Being Gay is to go along with the guys as they watch the girls when you'd much rather watch them.

Being Gay is being condemned to a life of one-night stands and loneliness because society denies your humanity.

Being Gay is to awaken every morning, live everyday, and go to sleep every night fearing discovery and rejection by your friends.

Being Gay is dating girls when you don't really want to just to maintain your cover.

Being Gay is pretending to be ignorant about homosexuality every time the topic is raisedand listening to straights display their ignorance while you don't dare correct them.

Being Gay is to know that there are many other gays around you acting out the same subterfuge and that your chances for a meaningful relationship are blocked when you only see each other's masks.

Being Gay is having sex in bathrooms, parks, and strange apartments with guys whose first name is all you know (if you know any name at all).

Being Gay is to be extra careful about how you dress and wear your hair so no one will suspect.

Being Gay is to go to a public place with your lover and not be able to show affection.

Being Gay is to be proud of the accomplishments of Gay Liberation and yet represent the type of homosexual they must overcome to succeed.

Being Gay is hating yourself for what you are and knowing that you can't and don't want to change.

Being Gay is to try to express some of the hell of a life that is anything but "gay" and then having to sign it anonymous.

Anonymous, 1971.