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Message-Id: <200212081625.KAA13164@msiasp01.ms.gov>
To: governor@governor.state.ms.us
From: southavenboy21@aol.com (Michael Ezell)
Subject: Comments to the Governor

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Michael Ezell (southavenboy21@aol.com) on Sunday, December 8, 2002 at 10:25:19

Street_Address: 2000 Poole Cove

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State: MS

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Message:

what are the gay rights in Mississippi, are they equal rights or am I and people like me discriminated against by our state?.....

Humankind's Intolerance of People Who They Don't Understand

I perceive and feel strongly that the major problem in today's world is prejudice. I believe that if everyone in this world accepted each other for what they are (human) we would all get along much better. Why do we always have to judge people? Since when does it become one's business to pass judgement on someone because of one's sexual orientation? Just because you are gay or straight, black or white, male or female, young or old, you should never be looked upon as being any less than yourself! The difference in each person is what makes our country so special. Therefore, one major problem involving gay prejudice is gay bashing. To begin, I fail to understand why some people hate homosexuals. This hatred leads to gay bashing because of someone's sexual preference. The physical and emotional pain caused on someone for being gay is called gay bashing. This is terrible. Why must some people think they must hurt or hate someone just because he is different? I am gay and I am a go!

od person who has never done anything to hurt anyone; however, I know many people hate me for the simple reality of something in which I had no choice. Matthew Shepard was killed by two men who hated him and hated what he was. His sexuality did not make him deserving of such a horrible death. I fear more people will be as cruel and evil as the two men who killed Matthew by brutally and savagely attacking him. They beat and burned him and left him to die hanging on a fence in the low freezing weather on a lonely, desolate country road. If the world is like that, I wish to never grow older and experience this world. Someday my wish is that there will be no gay bashing and I only hope to see this wish come true in my lifetime. God loves us and some day we will all be with God. People who are killing and bashing innocent gay human beings will one day stand before God. They will see that God loves us-not just one kind of man but all of us. His son died for us. It causes me great pa!

in when life is taken so senselessly because of gay bashing. I believe in the equality of humanity, but unfortunately there will always be an element of society that does not feel the same. They don't understand that being gay is not a choice and they choose to bash us because they believe we are a threat to "normal" society. The worst hypocrites are those so-called "Christians" that promote intolerance toward these abominations of mankind. "Christians" should be living right for God instead of giving people reasons for bashing innocent gay men and lesbian women. In other words, Gay bashing is not a family value, but there are those who think it is. May God have mercy on them. As a gay man, I still cannot believe the stupidity of the human race as a whole. People should wake up because we are not going away! We were born this way. I fought being gay most of my life because that is what my parents wanted. I

have known since I was born that this was the path I would take. It has!

not been easy but I don't know anyone that has had it easy in any lifestyle. Ours is just a little bit more difficult to accept and understand. Gay bashing won't solve anything, it only hurts more and more innocent people. I think society needs to get with the times; this is 1999, the year 2,000 is right around the corner and people are acting as if times haven't changed since Jesus himself roamed the earth. Those who condemn and bash innocent people just for being different are no better from those who put Jesus on the cross for being different. I feel it is ironic that man has come so far in technology but yet we cannot even figure out how to live amongst each other in peace and harmony. When will this world stop judging and gay bashing, and start loving each human being for what he is inside? In conclusion, I have not yet been the victim of gay bashing because of my sexual preference. However, I have been emotionally bashed. An emotional time for me was when my roommate co!

uldn't accept me for who I was and decided he no longer wanted to live with me. It hurt to know that he was uncomfortable living and being around me. My roommate was a nice guy. It hurt to see him change attitudes so suddenly. Going through this time has made me stronger, emotionally. I have been lucky enough to have supportive friends whom I love. Without my friends I don't think I could ever be this strong about who I am. I feel like they made me a new person. I hope that the human race will one day overcome it's hatred of what is different. Those of us who have retained our sanity in this world must show everyone that it is not an issue of homosexuality, it is an issue of the value of human life.

But all law-abiding Americans can agree that every human being has inalienable rights - the Declaration of Independence doesn't exclude anyone from "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And although America may have frequently fallen short of protecting all its citizens equally, that is the ideal. No matter how one feels about homosexuality, no one has the right to commit violence - or to urge acts of violence - against gay Americans. One suspect's father apologized for the killing, but said that the media have over-publicized it because Mr. Shepard was gay. Unfortunately, that's pure denial. Whether the story is covered extensively or not at all, this is the heart of the issue: If the suspects hadn't hated gays, Mr. Shepard might still be alive. Dallas Morning News, Oct 13, 1998

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