



ccess? Please return to your previous

butions of celebrities like Elizabeth Taylor in the fight against the disease.

Tim Scholl
Astoria, N.Y.

WE HAD NO RIGHT

The gay right-wingers cover [Issue 562] is deeply shocking and offensive. I know of no one who would claim that gays—in or out of the closet—who favor free markets, limited government, and (until recently) skepticism about Soviet Communism are in any way anything like Nazis. And I can see nothing to be gained by such a suggestion.

Paul Varnell
Chicago, Ill.

CONSERVATIVE YOUTH

As an openly gay conservative college student, I looked forward to reading your story "Gay Conservatives: Friends or Foes?" I presumed it would be about people like myself, who fight for gay rights but also happen to be conservative on foreign policy and economic issues. Instead, what I read was a story on gay conservatives who are *in the closet*.

The criticisms leveled against them—that they must compromise their principles, they must lie about their private life to protect their career, etc.—apply just as strongly to *gay liberals* who work in Washington and don't feel ready to be honest about their sexual orientation.

You might have written about the men and women who organize the national gay conservative groups that are making inroads into the Republican party. You might have profiled the new generation of college students who see no contradiction in being gay and conservative.

What you did was focus on a

small group of people and attack them for not being open about their sexual orientation—never remembering that most gay people from every imaginable economic, social, and political background are also in the closet. If the gay community expects society at large to become more tolerant of diversity, we must learn to be a lot more willing to accept it from our own.

Michael Giltz
Gainesville, Fla.

WHO ASKED HER?

Re Pat Califia's reply to the narcissist in Adviser, Issue 562: Who was asleep when this piece of judgmental smarm went to print? I'm personally impressed to death that Ms. Califia is threatened by male narcissism. Big deal. Who wants to hear about it in an advice column about male sexuality? The man who wrote asked for advice, which is (correct me if I'm wrong) what an advice column is used for. He received exactly what he did not ask for—opinions.

This gal needs a vacation (make it a long one) and also the name of a good shrink to cure her of her homophobia. Would it have been so hard for her to tell the guy about the many fine J/O clubs that abound during these hard times instead of wetting her pants because he wasn't asking for her opinion? Get over it, girl.

Raymond J. Foley
Tampa, Fla.

[Pat Califia replies: *Please excuse me for being amused and for amusing others. I've gotten a lot of letters about this issue, which is (as I acknowledged in my column) of deep interest to many gay men. An upcoming Adviser will include my de-*