



HINTS FOR THE HETEROSEXUAL

WHEN YOU MEET A GAY, LESBIAN OR TRANSGENDER PERSON, DO NOT...

- run screaming from the room. This is rude.
- assume they are attracted to you.
- assume they are not attracted to you.
- expect them to be as excited about meeting a heterosexual as you may be about meeting a gay person (they were probably raised with straights.)
- immediately start talking about your boy/girlfriend or husband/wife in order to make it clear that you are straight. They probably already know.
- ask them how they got that way. Instead ask yourself how you got to be the way you are.
- assume they are dying to talk about being transgender or gay.
- expect them to refrain from talking about being lesbian or transgender.
- trivialize their experience by assuming it is a bedroom issue only. They are gay/lesbian/bi/transgender 24 hours a day.
- assume they want to be treated like the opposite sex.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A FRIEND COMES OUT:

- Thank your friend for being honest and for trusting you.
- Congratulate your friend for knowing him/her/hirself so well.
- Reassure your friend that nothing will change between you.
- Don't assume that your friend is just confused and must really be straight.
- Respect your friend's privacy. Don't "out" your friend to others.
- Remember that sexual orientation is not a choice.
- Say the words "gay," "Lesbian," "bisexual," and "transgender," over and over, so that you don't fall over them when you talk with your friend.
- Dance. Laugh. Sing. Celebrate diversity!