

# *Why I Left the LGBTQIAOP etc., etc., etc. Community*

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Refer to me as a member of the LGBT community and I will be correcting you. Tell me I'm part of a bigger group with even more letters (LGBTQIA, etc.) and I'll likely cringe before correcting you or I might just shake my head and walk away from your stupidity.

I'm a masculine man who likes the sexual, emotional, spiritual, comradely and brotherhood of other masculine men which some might call me as being "gay" and as far as I'm concerned that's as perfectly a good label as far as labels go.

Now why is it that I have such an attitude as this?

Because I'm not a dyke nor lesbian, a transgender, or a bisexual, and beyond a basic human level, I don't relate to those who are. Shit I don't even identify with the majority of those who call themselves "Gay" especially when compared with those seen in today's modern media.

This whole issue of adding and subtracting letters from just being a "gay community" all started when the dykes and lesbians seceded from the union. Prior to the sexual revolution, those who practiced nonheterosexual behavior were called simply "homosexual" or "homophile."

In my opinion, being labeled "gay" at that point was just fine, but evidently the dykes and lesbians weren't happy being lumped together with gay men us. And I can't say I blame them. The social practices and mating rituals of homosexual women are very, very different from those of homosexual men. In my opinion, they are completely different species.

As the Gay & Lesbian community started becoming a political movement it kicked off a wave of mass annexation. The term "gay and lesbian" worked so well that bisexuals wanted to be a part of it along with representation for their rights. Enter the acronym.

In the beginning it was simple enough: LG or GL, depending on the gender of the person using it. (As with a tennis score, you tend to put yourself first.) Then along came the bisexuals, transgenders and suddenly we had LGBT—or as I've heard it called, the "Gay BLT." But once it became a multi-layered sandwich, there was no stopping it. And everyone labeled as being "nonheterosexual" wanted in for political and social recognitions. The more groups it represented, the further away from my experience it drifted.

Now there's LGBTQIAOP, which is just too much and downright ridiculous. Especially when you break down the meaning. For the longest time I even I thought the "Q" stood for "queer"—a word I never use in relation to things homosexual because according to the dictionary it means "strange," "odd," "of a questionable nature," or "mentally unbalanced." Which is not how I wish to identify myself.

Labeling yourself abnormal does not invite acceptance. We might as well call ourselves "outcasts." But I have since learned that the "Q" actually stands for "questioning," which means you can be a part of the Gay BLT simply by wondering if you're gay. Evidently you can also be intersexed, omnisexual, pansexual, or asexual.

Do you understand what that means? This acronym that once unified people who are drawn to those of the same gender now represents people who are drawn to almost anything but the opposite gender, people who are drawn to everything or anything including animals, and people who aren't sure who or what they're drawn to, as well as people who self-identify as the opposite sex, have atypical or no sex organs, people who associate everything they do with sex, and people who don't have sex at all.

It reads like a bunch of dissimilar misfits all grouped together for who knows just what other than justification for their sexual issues. If that is the case then the “community” needs to add in battered women and men, the celibate priests, monks and nuns not to mention the Amish? They probably have sex, too.

My concern isn't about the enormity of the sandwich. It's about the plain and simple fact that a gaggle of marginalized groups don't automatically form a cohesive community. And that putting all these different peoples together in turn does not mean “community” anymore.

How's an African American supposed to feel special if he's relegated to a group called BLAH (blacks, Latins, Asians, and Hispanics). They're all so-called ethnic minorities, some might argue, why shouldn't they too be lumped together?

Here's why: Because each group has its own set of wonderfully unique qualities and, more importantly, its own unique set of struggles and political issues. While some of the struggles of some groups will occasionally coincide, others won't—no matter how much you try and force them to. I know that I don't like being lumped together with people into having sex with animals, nor do I like being labeled in a community of masculine women flashing their tits.

While every group represented by the GLBT is worthy of respect and compassion, the same goes for every group inside and outside of it including heterosexuals. And don't tell me we're united by our need for equality, because every person on the planet fights for equality in one way or another. To say that the desire for “equality” is limited to people who are gay, lesbian, transgender, etc., is a gross misuse of the word.

If you put together enough isolated groups, you'll eventually represent the entire population. Is that the point? To lump all of our diversity together in the hopes of creating sameness? Don't get me wrong, solidarity is nice, but diversity is amazing. And when you think about it, aren't most wars the result of feeble-minded attempts to make people think alike and/or follow the same practices? I thought we learned that lesson as a human race through the time of Hitler's Nazism.

My suggestion is we should just say NO and stop all this stereo typing and labeling to form a community. If you sexually are attracted to those of the same sex you're a homosexual and if your attracted to those of the opposite sex your heterosexual.

What once was a “community” is no longer there because it has become so diversified and watered down that most people like myself simply don't fit into this “community” anymore as it has been de-defined.