

HIGH TECH GAYS:
WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Despite being on the forefront of technology, Santa Clara Valley is not on the forefront of political activism. The generation that battled at Berkeley or marched at MIT now designs chips for personal computers and animated toys. Challenging work and comfortable living are the goals of most of the residents; gays are similarly motivated and we make up a significant fraction of the high tech work force.

The civil rights of minorities, both visible (e.g., women, blacks) and invisible (e.g., gays, Jews) are being given wide, if sometimes grudging, acceptance. These minorities may not be liked, but fewer and fewer people will now openly argue that dislike is sufficient grounds for the denial of Constitutional rights. But we insist on more than Constitutional rights; we insist on non-discrimination in employment, housing, and all other aspects of our lives. And these are still being denied by some employers, some government departments, some landlords, some bankers, etc.

So why have we waited this long to form an organization to address these and other issues of concern to Gays in the high tech field? I would suggest that it is because we now feel comfortable enough in our lifestyle, relatively unthreatened on the job, and well enough off to stop worrying about ourselves (singular) and begin to worry about ourselves (plural).

What are we going to do about these problems? That is the challenge we face now. What would YOU like to do? Educate the public? march in a parade? educate yourself? confront employers? petition politicians? fight in the courts? discredit the "Moral Majority"? come out on the job? socialize with other high tech people?

Today we have no fixed plans. Tomorrow with your interest and participation we can and will enter the arenas of our choice and, with the weight of our professionalism behind us, make a difference in the quality of Gay life in Silicon Valley.

Russ Rudy
President, HTG