

## **Romanovsky & Phillips**

# **"When Hetrosexism Strikes"**

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This was written after reading an article by Joseph Neisen in  
The Fall 1990 issue of OUT/LOOK, titled "Heterosexism or  
Homophobia? The Power of the Language We Use." He writes,  
"Heterosexism... identifies the true origin of the prejudice...  
And concentrates on the real problem - discrimination against gay  
Men and lesbians... use of heterosexism leads the way from  
Victimization to survival.")  
You're applying for a job  
So you're filling out a form  
And for all intents and purposes  
You fit into the norm  
Until it says to list your next of kin  
But there's no box to fit you in  
Cause the one you love  
The one who shares your life  
Is not your husband or your wife  
Oh no!  
Heterosexism strikes again  
So use the power of the pen  
To draw a box of your own and then  
Label it however you like:  
Lover, spouse or partner-in-life  
That's one way you can fight  
When heterosexism strikes  
Michael served his country well  
When he went to fight the war  
And each letter from his lover  
He locked safely in a drawer  
Until a witch hunt of McCarthy style  
Demanded he be put on trial  
They said his love, his sexuality  
Threatened national security  
Oh no!  
Heterosexism knocks you down  
But pick yourself up off the ground  
And challenge them to a second round

Get a lawyer, file a report  
Drag their asses back into court  
That's one way you can fight  
When heterosexism strikes  
Don't let them break you, or make you miserable  
Don't let them take you, and make you invisible  
We're here, we're queer, that's a natural fact  
When heterosexism strikes, strike back!  
Sharon and her lover Sue  
Danced and dined by candlelight  
They were one of many couples getting intimate that  
night  
Until the waiter asked them both to leave  
And they looked at him in disbelief  
As he ended their romantic night of bliss  
Because they'd had the nerve to kiss  
Oh no!  
Heterosexism strikes again  
But you've got rights you must defend  
So get together a group of your gayest friends  
Go back to the scene of the crime  
Hug and kiss and have a good time  
That's one way you can fight  
When heterosexism strikes  
Heterosexism on the loose  
But you don't have to take abuse  
No! Now's the time we can put to use  
The righteous anger we feel  
The love we're taught to conceal  
We've got to stand up and fight  
When heterosexism strikes

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