

**UVic Diversity Writing Contest 2011, Second-Place Poetry Winner**  
**By Michelle Zakrison**  
**On Paper**

On paper it seems so obvious,  
But how was I to know?  
Grew up thinking boy meets girl,  
Unaware there was more to the show.  
Thought I was open minded,  
But laid with girl before guy,  
Then had a compulsion to tell the world,  
Did not want to lie.

Are you sure that you are?  
Maybe it's just a phase.  
Girls kissing girls, you know  
Is just the latest craze.

So nervous to share,  
But I just had to tell.  
Wanted to meet a pretty girl,  
Who'd make my heart swell.

After my first love,  
I had to figure it out,  
To marry a girl or guy, I'd ask.  
To whom my love will shout?

So nervous about girls,  
Not caring about guys,  
After years of not knowing,  
I realized that time really flies.

My mentor helped me figure it out,  
Without her unsure if I could  
Leaving guys behind that day  
Made me solid as wood.

Now it's just clicking,  
And I'm very happy so,  
I take each day as an opportunity,  
To let everyone know.

Suicide, verbal and physical abuse,  
Incarceration, lack of rights.  
In 2012 these things still exist,  
That's why we have to fight.

Hold hands, kiss, love,  
Every way in every place,  
We can't be invisible anymore,  
We must take up time and space.

It doesn't just get better,  
We have to make it so,  
I'm a lesbian woman,  
Normalize gay, now go!