

After reading the lavish unthinking praise given to *Improper Conduct* in the *New York Times* and elsewhere, I read B. Ruby Rich's article "Bay of Pix" with relief and pride. Finally someone has pointed out the gross distortions of this film. Your magazine has restored my faith in the American press's ability to put the facts before the public.

I have been to Cuba numerous times since 1981 as part of a long-term study of the Cuban legal system. Often I've been accompanied by other American lawyers. Three issues have never escaped inquiry: racism, the condition of women, and the treatment of homosexuals. In just the past three years the situation for homosexuals has changed dramatically. Not only are homosexuals visible and increasingly integrated into the life of the country, but laws prohibiting homosexuals from teaching in the grade schools have been repealed. Things *do* change in Cuba—the sixties are well in the past.

On a recent visit, I engaged in lengthy discussions with Cuban jurists who are in the process of revising the country's penal code—the goal of this process is to decriminalize many minor offenses and to reduce prison sentences for most crimes. Moreover, I visited a maximum-security prison, and I spoke to persons who have relatives in prison. Not only are the infamous detention camps gone, but policy with respect to the treatment of convicted criminals in Cuba is far more humane than that which exists in many prisons in the United States.

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