



Calendar

Having a problem? Do you need another opinion? Send your queer queries to: Gertrude and Alice, c/o Out in the Mountains, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402.

The approaching holidays seem to be weighing heavily on our readers' minds this month. The following two letters address a few of the problems that lesbians and gay men face during the holidays.

Dear Gertrude and Alice:

We would like to hear what you have to say about the holidays. For us, they have become more of a nightmare each year for the last three years: Who goes where, when, etc. Up until last year we had deferred to our parents' wishes and gone home separately for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Last year we decided to make a statement and we both went to my parents' home for Thanksgiving and hers for Christmas. It was not fun. No one had a particularly festive time. Neither of us is up for another round of it this year. We have decided to stay home and celebrate the holidays together -- alone. Any suggestions on how to break this to our parents and how to explain our reasons?

Your Fans in Manchester

Dear Fans:

Aarrgghhh! The holidays can be a bitch for lesbian and gay couples and singles as well. Most "singles" we know (who aren't out to their families) get the usual pressures to get married, etc. etc. ad nauseam. You stated the problems faced by couples quite nicely.

We support your decision to celebrate the holidays at your own home, but must you do it alone? Are there other lesbian or gay couples or singles whom you could include in your plans? Especially at the holidays, we need to support one another and really be a community.

As for breaking the news to your parents, be "straight" with them. (Pun fully intended.) Tell them as far in advance as possible that you will not be joining them for the holidays, and tell them why. It will make it clear to them that they either

WARMLY accept both you and your partner into their homes at the holidays or yo' will celebrate the holidays without them. Alice's addendum: Try to be gentle, and let them know that this is a difficult decision for you to make. Good luck.

Dear Gert and Alice:

This past week I received a call from my sister (who lives in Massachusetts). I told her about a relationship that I'm involved in and that I was at the March on Washington. Each time I approach the subject of being gay she changes the subject or gives me no response. I care about her deeply but it takes a lot of energy to keep trying with no reaction.

With her living so far away it somehow seems easier to just avoid the topic. With the holidays approaching I am wondering what I should do? (P.S. - I love your column!)

-Confused in Colchester

Dear Confused:

First, we applaud your being out to your sister in the first place. We know this takes a lot of courage.

It sounds as though your sister is at a certain stage of acceptance (or non-acceptance!) which might or might not change. Since she is an important person to you, give it another try.

Have you pointed out to her that she changes the subject or doesn't respond when you talk about things related to your gay lifestyle? You might want to say, "Hey, when I talk about my life, you change the subject, which doesn't make me feel very good. Can we talk about this?" Or words to that effect.

This IS a difficult situation, and all the "communicating" can't come from you-- she has to put in some effort, too. You might also want to send her articles, books or other materials regarding lesbian or gay life (hey! You could send her "Gert and Alice"!!! But you'd need a very large envelope for the two of us). This way she can become better informed at her own pace, without pressure. Please write to us again and let us know how it turns out.

Bowers v. Hardwick case, which ruled that there is no constitutionally-protected right to privacy in the bedroom between consenting adults, in this case two gaymen. Fifty-seven percent of responding attorneys believed that anti-gay violence would increase, and the same number of lawyers felt that states should repeal sodomy laws.

Dec. 5 - Sat.

Integrity. (See VT. Area Resources).

Dec. 6 - Sun.

VT. Lesbian/Gay Statewide Coalition.

Meeting in South Royalton, VT. 10:30 a.m. Info. write: P.O. Box 1125, Montpelier, VT 05602

Dec. 9 - Wed.

Unitarian-Universalist Lesbian/Gay

Concerns Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Service and Social. (Senator Sally Conrad, speaker). Top of Church Street, Burlington, VT. Call 658-2033, or 862-5630.

Dec. 9 - Wed.

Burlington Peace Coalition Board

Meeting. 7:00 p.m. 186 College St., Burlington, VT

Dec. 15 - Tue.

VT. CARES Benefit. Suggested donation:

\$3.00 - Come join the fun at PEARLS! (See related article).

Dec. 15 - Tue.

OITM Content and Editing Meeting.

6:30 p.m. Peace and Justice Center, 186 College St., Burlington, VT

Dec. 16 - Wed.

HANUKKAH

Dec. 18 - Fri.

OITM TYPING. 5:30 p.m. After typing,

join us for a Holiday Party! More info., call: 864-3617. All welcomed!

Dec. 19 - Sat.

Integrity. (See Resources).

Dec. 22 - Tue.

WINTER SOLSTICE.

Dec. 23 - Wed.

U.U.L.G.C. Service and Holiday Party!

(In attendance will be Chas Grindle, National Co-Chair of the U.U.L.G.C.). 6:30 p.m. (See 12/9/87)

Dec. 25 - Fri.

CHRISTMAS

Dec. 28 - Mon.

OITM General Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Peace

and Justice Center, 186 College St., Burlington, VT

Jan. 1, 1988 - Fri.

New Year's Day!

Statewide Coalition Meeting

* December 6, 1987 - 10:30 AM

Royalton House, S. Royalton, VT

Write: Box 1125, Montpelier, VT 05602

Call: 864-3617

Last meeting before VT Legislature convenes in January.

LAWYERS DISAPPROVE OF SUPREME COURT RULING - The Washington (DC) BLADE -

According to a recent poll by the American Bar Association, 67% of the responding lawyers thought the Supreme Court reached the wrong decision in the