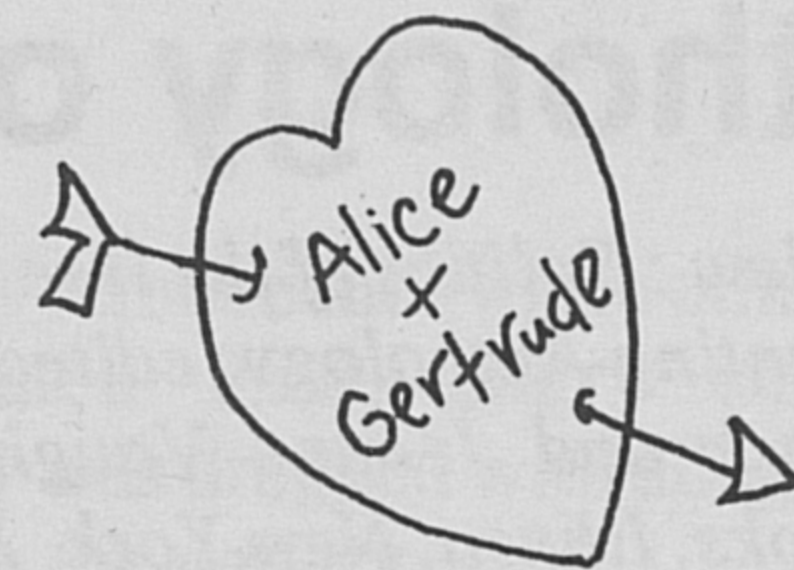




Dear Gertrude & Alice



Well, no one has sent us any questions so we guess no one wants to hear our advice. Fortunately, that doesn't stop us from giving it anyway!! Since this is our Valentine's Day issue, let's talk about love and romance. It's freezing cold outside so it's time to cuddle, make someone blush, along with other warming activities. Please note that several of these suggestions can be enjoyed by one, two, or more people, and often at very little cost.

Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Traditional but still worthwhile - go out to dinner, and linger!
- 2) If you want to stay home, try a bottle of champagne and chocolate kisses.
- 3) Reminisce (first date, first kiss...)
- 4) Read aloud, while in a bath - note reading suggestions below.
- 5) For those with access to a VCR, rent Desert Hearts and watch it AGAIN.
- 6) Flowers. Another traditional move, but almost always appreciated.
- 7) Write silly poetry.
- 8) Want to have a quiet evening at home? You might want to try a jigsaw or crossword puzzle. Or maybe you can dig around in that messy closet for a favorite old game (our current "golden oldie" is Mousetrap).
- 9) Make or buy corny Valentine's Day cards. We especially like the ones with flowers and lace that say, "To My Darling Wife."
- 10) How about a treasure hunt around your house or apartment? It takes some planning, but can be lots of fun. Perhaps the treasure can be a stack of "gift" certificates for a free hug, kiss, (or whatever) upon request.

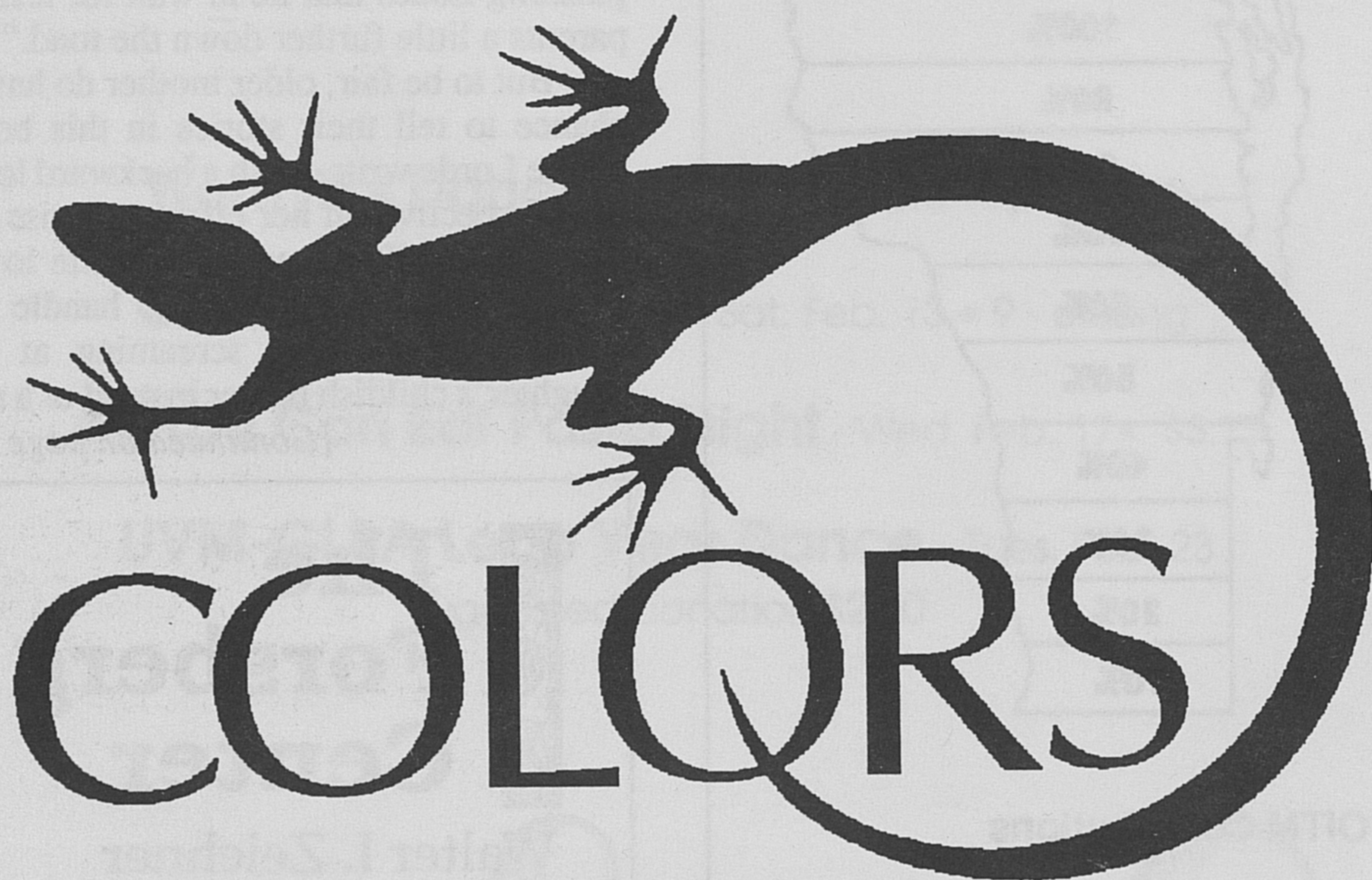
Reading suggestions:

Gaywyck, by Vincent Virga, (no longer in print so ask around and borrow) - a wonderful gothic romance, featuring Robert, a beautiful, shy young man, who takes a job as librarian to the handsome, virile Dounough Gaylord, in castle Gaywyck. Mystery, suspense, and smouldering passions!

Katherine Forrester novels - any of them will do.

Not enough trashy lesbian or gay novels? Why not try writing one of your own?

Do you have some suggestions of your own? We'd love to hear them. As always we invite your queer queries. Write to us Gert and Alice, c/o Out in the Mountains, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402.



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