

To send your queer queries to Gertrude and Alice, write to us c/o Out in the Mountains, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, Vt. 05402. Please write! Anonymous questions are fine.

Dear Gert and Alice:

I am discouraged with the extent of intolerance for different kinds of lifestyles that I see in the Burlington lesbian community. Must one be writing a book on incest or making less than \$6.00 an hour to be considered "politically correct?"

Why do so many lesbians equate modest material comfort with "selling out"? In their effort to free themselves from mainstream, heterosexist America, many lesbians seem to have bought into an equally confining alternative — i.e., toe our high-minded, morally correct line or don't bother us. Whatever.

What do you think of all this? Am I off base or is there some truth in this?

-Irritated in Burlington

Dear Irritated:

You aren't off base, you're right on target! There is definitely some truth in what you say. We too have been discouraged by the "more-organic-than-thow" attitude held by parts of the lesbian community in Burlington and elsewhere. Perhaps it is natural, when people are going against everything that is the norm, to sometimes lose a little flexibility along the way. It is really unfortunate, however, when a woman who makes good money, or eats meat, or wears make-up, or enjoys S/M, or is bisexual, or anything else feels excluded from the lesbian community. On the positive side, there are always individuals who do not fit into this generalization. We suggest that you seek out these individuals. If you're feeling brave, you might also ask your intolerant acquaintances to examine their own exclusionist behavior. Meanwhile, readers with money to spare can make their checks payable to the "Gert and Alice Vacation Condominium Fund", because WE don't believe in stop-

ping at mere "modest" material comfort!

Dear Gert and Alice,

I have made a decision to come out to my mother, who seems to be "fishing" for ways to open up the subject, but whenever she does, I am the one who gets nervous & changes the subject.

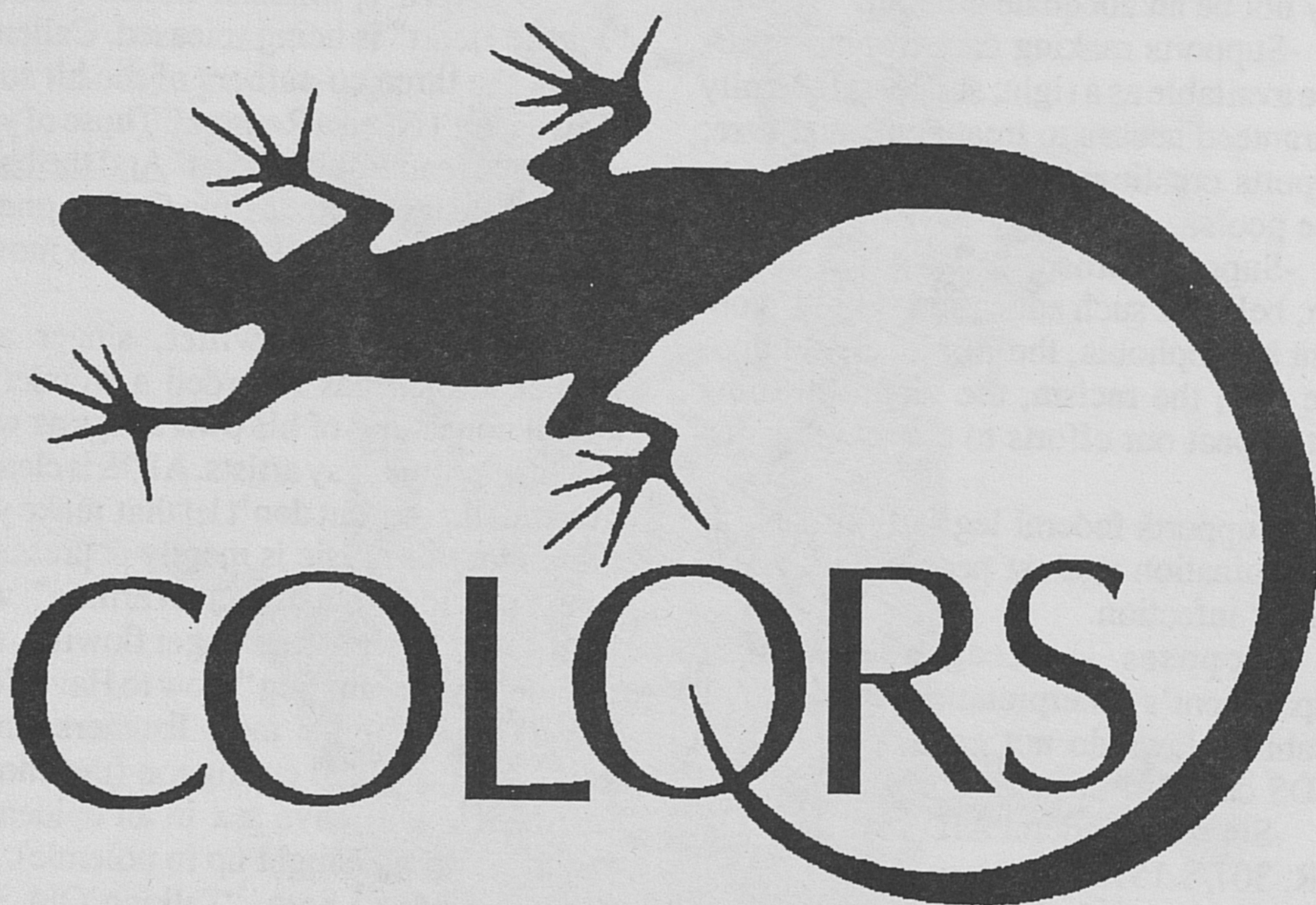
A few years ago, my mother displayed strong verbal efforts to deny that her daughter was a lesbian & I have since, always felt justified about my suspicions that I need to keep myself and my sexual preference a secret.

But, how can I tell the difference between dynamics of mistrust that I am keeping alive needlessly, and those of actual reality? How can I tell what to allow my imagination to entertain alone, and which to give my serious consideration? How can I learn to trust my mother, or should I? Sign me as

-Perplexed

Dear Perplexed,

First of all, we applaud the courage it took for you to make the decision to come out to your mother. As for being able to tell the difference between imagined and real dynamics of mistrust- in many ways you can't. In the situation you are in, where everything is left unsaid and messages



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