

# Commentary

## I'm Out To Her; I'm Out To The Kids: NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

by K. K. Wilder

(Ed. note: This is the last in a series of seven articles about gay men and the women who love them.)

You've come out to her. You've come out to the kids. You've talked about the best ways to handle this transition together, seeking the help of a support group or counselor if necessary.

Now what?

In some couples, a man's coming out signals the end of the relationship. "It really wasn't my being gay that finished our marriage," one man says. "We were in deep trouble long before I realized I was gay; this was just the final straw."

Still others believe the man's sexuality should make no difference whatsoever--that he can choose to live heterosexually--regardless of occasional homosexual longings. "I admitted I find both women and men sexually appealing," a middle-aged man tells me, "but told her that all our years together were too important to me to act on either of those attractions as long as I'm married to her."

"No relationship offers a guarantee," explains his wife. "He's decided to remain monogamous and, right now, that means monogamous to me. I don't feel there's any more threat to our staying together than other people face. After all, heterosexual men leave women every day for other women, don't they? So, if my husband falls in love with anyone else, why should it matter to me whether it's a man or a woman? Either way, I'll feel exactly the same...sad."

Then there are the couples who don't want to separate, yet can't seem to yield to any sort of understanding or compromise.

"He told me I was free to see other men," one woman told me, "or to develop a lesbian relationship. But it's only him I want, so his suggestion isn't worth a damn."

"If she weren't so stubborn, she'd give it a try," her husband states. "I know there are couples who stay together, but I can't be true to myself and still live with her inflexibility."

"Well, he'll just have to make a

choice," she retorts, angrily. "Other men or me. I'm not sharing."

Deadlock.

Just as with any other relationship, stalemates don't work; answers can't be found when two immovable objects keep bouncing off each other. Cooperation, on the other hand, brings solutions. Even couples who felt their situation had no chance of working have found ways through the maze. Such couples learn to live within whatever perimeters they set, often agreeing to change the guidelines as they go along.

"We've had a running dialogue ever since I came out to her," one man says of his girlfriend. "So far, we've been able to function by being supportive of one another's needs. We're too important to each other to just throw in the towel."

CONCLUSION:

It would be wonderful if there were specific guidelines, tidy steps to take, which worked in every case. But there aren't.

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It's time for  
PEARLS' SEVENTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



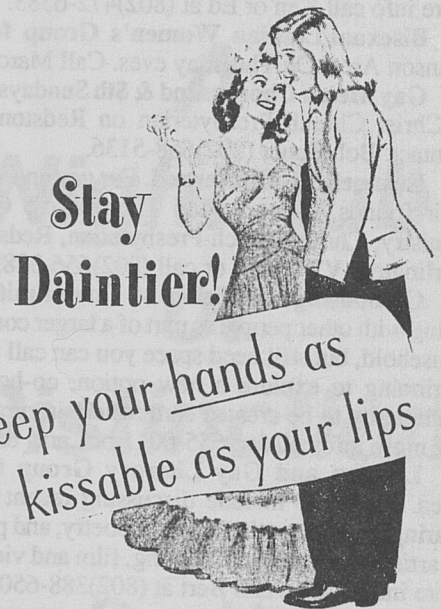
After dinner, Santa dresses to go to town.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17th  
STARTING AT 4PM.

JOIN US FOR TREE DECORATING, DRINKS, DANCE and FOOD



Women's  
Dance  
# 61  
Friday, Dec.  
1st



Stay  
Daintier!  
Keep your hands as  
kissable as your lips

3 guesses  
what girls  
forget most!

5pm  
Buffet and Dance  
\$5

- Remove make-up at bedtime
- DANCE AT PEARLS TIP BARTENDER
- Buy a new sanitary belt