

Write Auntie Pearl

Dear Auntie Pearl,

I hope you can give me an objective opinion. My lover and I broke-up a year and a half ago, and we're still living together. "Sally" is like family to me, and even though we couldn't work it out as lovers, we're great roommates. My problem is that my friends say this is wrong, and that we should move apart. Sally and I both disagree. I'm afraid that if I listen to my friends, I'll lose a lot. But if I don't listen, they'll never let up. What do you think?

Sign me: Homebody.

Dear Homebody,

Auntie Pearl's First Rule of Friendship applies here: Friends may only share opinions with us in response to the following questions: 1) What do you think? 2) This won't kill me, will it? 3) Mind if

I slip into something more comfortable, such as your lover?

In all other circumstances, your friends must clam up and love you through a lifetime of your most dreadful decisions. And darling, this is one of them. Once you insist that your friends stop clouding your thoughts with their noise, you will—I pray—begin to see things clearly. You will realize that if being "like family" were grounds for non-separation, you would still be living with Mom and Dad. You will see that moving out doesn't necessarily mean losing Sally, or your pet iguana, or the Ginsu knives.

Auntie Pearl is concerned. Some people are reluctant to leave a situation which took years to become acceptable to their families. Others who are closeted, fear that the pain of separation will be so great that the truth will become obvious to everyone from homophobic co-

workers to the nosy mail carrier. Auntie does not want you and Sally to continue to give up your individual lives in order to cling to the best part of an otherwise unsatisfying relationship. You both deserve to find out what you can each be apart. I guarantee that you will emerge from this transition a proud woman who is more confident in her ability to handle anything, and who is skads more lively on date night.

If your friends want as much involvement in your life as it sounds, tell them that the support you'll need in the coming months will give them plenty to do. Move out and move on.

...

Dear Auntie Pearl,

After 5 years together, my lover, Gordon, and I have decided to sell our houses,

PO Box 220
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VALERIE WHITE
Humanist Minister
American Humanist Association

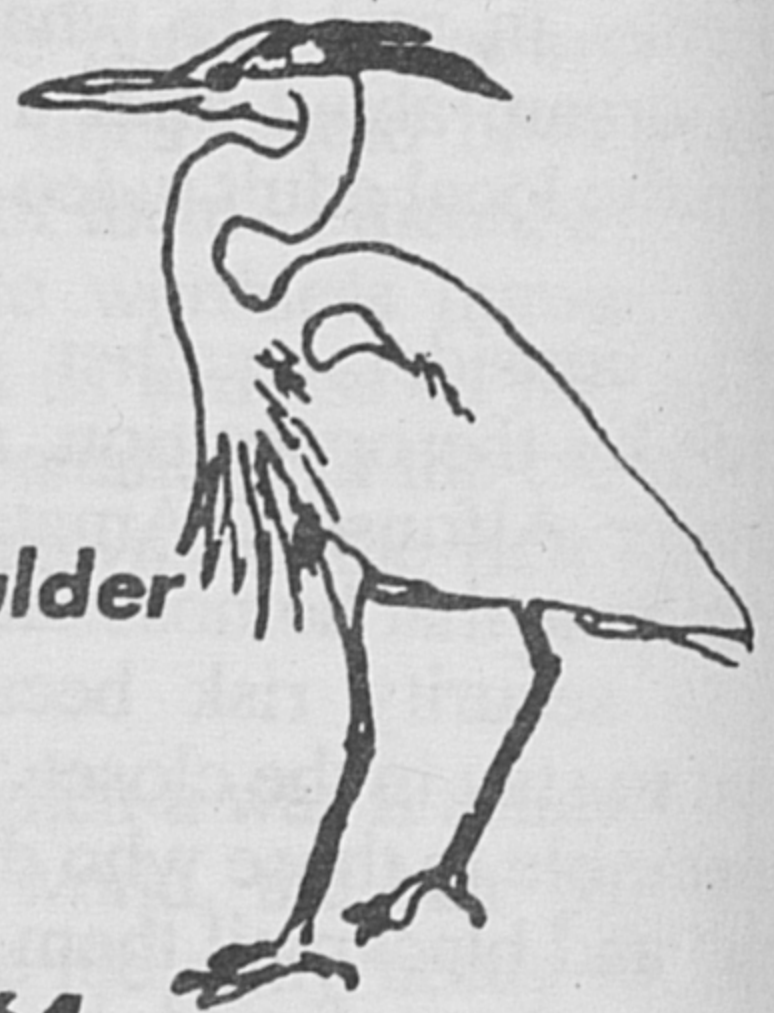
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- Bennington Free Library
- Bennington College
- Bennington Library
- Record Rack
- Southern Vermont College

Brattleboro

- Brattleboro Food CoopCahoots
- Common Ground
- Everyone's Books

Burlington

- Burlington College
- Chassman & Bem
- Fletcher Free Library
- Partners in Recovery & Growth
- Peace & Justice Center
- Pearls
- Planned Parenthood

Castleton

- STEP Learning Center

Chester

- Misty Valley Books Chester

Craftsbury

- Craftsbury Public Library

Center Rutland

- Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection

East Barnet

- Innwood Manor

East Hardwick

- Greenhope Farm

Fair Haven

- Fair Haven Free Library

Hardwick

- Buffalo Mountain Coop
- Galaxy Books

Lyndonville

- Jon's Automotive
- Project EXCEL, Lyndon State College

Manchester Center

- Northshire Bookstore

Middlebury

- Middlebury Natural Food Coop

Montpelier

- Bear Pond Books
- Horn of the Moon Cafe
- Rivendell Books
- Woman Centered

Morrisville

- Morristown Centennial Library

Newfane

- Moore Free Library

Newport

- Northeast Kingdom AIDS Coalition

Northfield

- Brown Public Library

Norwich

- Social Alternatives for Gay Men

Plainfield

- Woman's Study Program

Putney

- Putney Library

Randolph

- Kimball Public Library

Rutland

- PFLAG
- Rutland Free Library

St. Johnsbury

- LUNA/NEVGALR c/o Umbrella
- Natural Provisions
- Regional Library
- St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Stowe

- Food for Thought

White River Junction

- WRJ Books
- Upper Valley Coop

Williamstown, MA

- Wild Oats Co-op

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