

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

For the past months, the continuing saga of Martha and Belinda has been mildly intriguing, however, reading Belinda Darcy's epilogue in the December issue was disheartening. I found her observations of Burlington, Vermont women offensive and narrow-minded. Not all American heterosexual women have long hair, wear make-up and prance around in high-heeled shoes, nor do all lesbians like short hair and basketball. These confining perspectives on gender are scary and dangerous.

I question Belinda's flippant comment that women who are not traditionally feminine are "Homo Wannabes" -- according to whose standards? I would ask Belinda and the larger gay/lesbian community to examine their own assumptions about how people should behave. Zealotry is dangerous, and dualistic thinking such as Belinda's plots people against each other., rather than addressing the oppressive ideologies that exist in our culture against women and GLB people. This "Us" versus "Them" mentality is neither humorous nor productive. For many of us, gender-specific stereotypes are exactly what we call into question on a daily basis.

There are many straight, bisexual, and gay people who can be allies for each other. I applaud gender blending, and I think more people should do it! Hooray for lipstick lesbians, drag queens, and androgynous women and men. It is imperative to challenge our prescribed categories of men and women, and heterosexuals and gays. Such comments as Belinda's often go unchallenged, yet only until gender boundaries are continually questioned can we as a society come to fully accept individuals, regardless of sexual orientation and gender. After all, it is not always the appearance that makes an individual's politics. Such assumptions only unnecessarily separate people from each other. In the future, I trust OITM to affirm GLB lifestyles and at the same time avoid divisive strategies that isolate people.

Sincerely,

Kirsten L. Iagro ▼

Donna



I Love You Forever



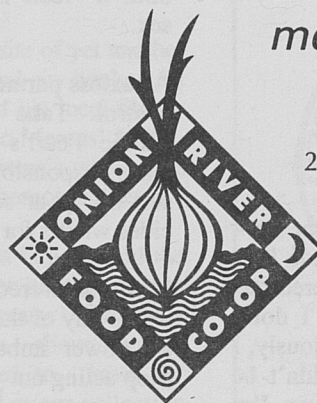
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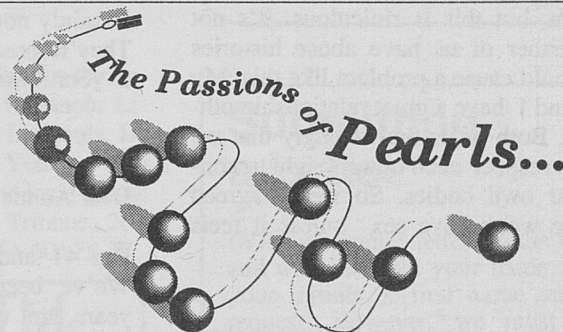


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