

WRITE YOUR  
**AUNTIE PEARL**



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**Dear Auntie Pearl:** I need help figuring out if my problem is really a problem or not, so I'm writing to you. My lover "Karen" is wonderful in almost every way, and I love her. We want to grow old together. I'm totally committed to this relationship.

There's one thing that I feel like is a problem, even though it wasn't at first.

Karen is a separatist, and she just plain won't have anything to do with men. I don't mind dealing with men for her in stores etc., or on the phone, but now it's getting awkward because it involves my friends and family.

Now that we've been together for a little over six months, she started meeting my male friends. Karen will not talk to them. She stares at them until they feel so uncomfortable that they leave. They've stopped coming over to my place because Karen is there most of the time. They're too polite to say anything, but I know they're upset. The hardest thing is that she does this with my little brother, who's 19. He's such a sweet guy that he tries to understand, but I know he's hurt.

I respect separatism, but it's getting hard to manage between her and the males I know. Even if I get a phone call from a male, she gets upset. The last time a male called me while she was there, she said that either I hang up, or she would go home. I hung up, even though I know that was wrong, but I didn't know what else to do.

I tried to tell her that these guys are okay, but she just said to respect her views. I do respect them, but I don't know what to do. How can I convince her to give them a chance? I don't expect Karen to be friends with them, but I'd like her to be civil. Then maybe eventually she would see that they're okay.

I'm in this for life, Auntie Pearl. I don't believe in dropping a lover just because there's a problem or a difference. Please help me make this relationship work! --

*Stumped*

**Dear Stumped:** You don't need your Auntie Pearl. You need a hearing specialist. Karen has told you she doesn't do men. What part of separatism don't you understand? Your lover may not make the Miss Congeniality finals, but at least she's honest. Don't tell your Auntie how much you respect separatism while you try to change Karen's mind.

You two are in hot contention for Control Queen '94 honors. Karen wants you to dump your friends. You want her to deny her separatism. And you're in this for life?

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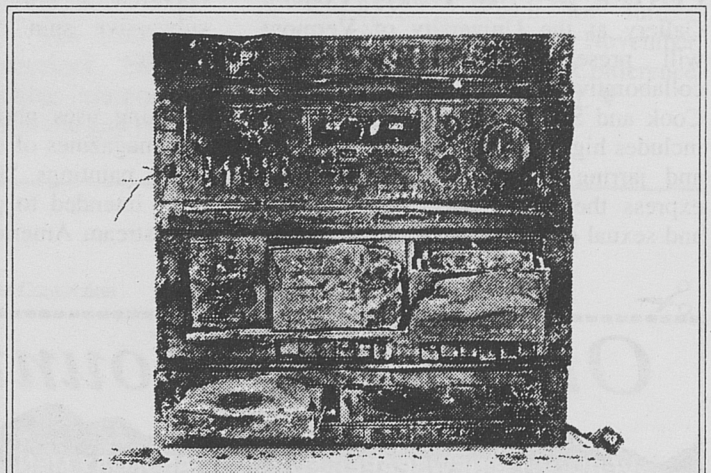
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