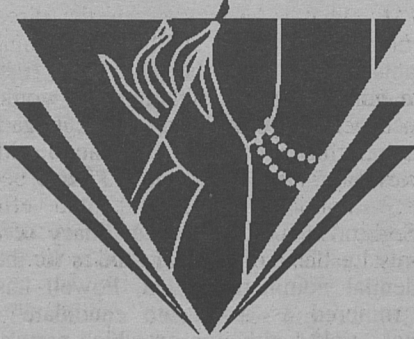


WRITE YOUR  
**AUNTIE PEARL**



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**Dear Auntie Pearl:** Please tell me if I'm wrong to try to save my relationship. Here's my situation: My lover "Carrie" can't get over her ex. It's been 4 years since her ex left Carrie (we've been together 3 years), and Carrie still won't speak to her. Carrie won't go to Provincetown or the Michigan music festival because they went there. She won't go to some restaurants, she won't talk to some of my best friends or go to their parties. You get the picture.

I've respected her wishes, and I've missed out on a lot of things. This week, she gave me the silent treatment because I talked to her ex in the grocery store. I finally told her that it had gone on long enough, and she blew up at me. She accused me of just pretending to be on her side all these years. It's not like I can tell Carrie to go to a shrink. She already does. So what's left to do?

I hope you'll see something I'm missing, because I'm ready to call it quits. I know she loves me, but should I give up hoping that Carrie will ever feel as deeply for me as she does for her ex?

*Haunted in the South*

**Dear Haunted:** If Carrie's ex showed up tomorrow with an engagement ring and two tickets to Hawaii, your lover would run quicker than cheap mascara in a monsoon. Carrie cares as much about her ex as you seem to care about

your needs. This isn't about getting over lost love, it's about fear of intimacy. You and Carrie are each pursuing an inaccessible woman.

Before you call it quits, give your life some attention. You want to go to Provincetown? Go. You miss your favorite eatery? Take yourself out. Nobody has the right to determine who you talk to or where you socialize. Once Carrie sees that you won't sit home and iron her crying towels, she'll snap-to and realize that life is passing her by. If that doesn't work, walk.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dear Auntie Pearl:** I'm an 18 year old male from a small city. I had a secret sexual relationship with my best friend (male) in high school, but we went our separate ways after graduation. I thought I'd get together with lots of gays at a prestigious university. Not.

The gays I meet here are cynical about everything, and they look like freaks. They wear clothes that look like they came from the garbage. They shave their heads and pierce their noses to look cool. Instead, they look stupid. They act like I'm ignorant because I came to college for an education and not to have kiss-ins in the student union or to get ROTC off campus. I considered ROTC myself before I got my scholarships.

I was popular in high school. I'm considered good-looking. I lettered in swimming in high school, and I still swim every morning. I'm in great shape, and I think I'm a decent, friendly guy. But the gays here act like I'm from Mars, and they wouldn't lower themselves to be with me. As if anybody wants to sleep with guys who try to look as weird and out of shape as possible!

But my problem is that I don't know how to find gay guys like me. How does a regular guy find some love? Thank you.

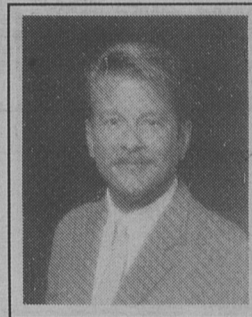
*All American Gay Guy*

**Dear All American:** It's no wonder the boys don't give you a tumble. All they can see is your nasal passages while you look down your freshly-scrubbed nose.

You're in college. It's time you start learning. You don't have to like "cynical" gays, but you'd be wise to sit your Dad and Lad Slacks down and consider why these guys are so irked. Angry queers like these may just save your neck one day. They'll be the ones passing laws that keep you out of jail, in a job, in your home, or alive with affordable medicine.

By all means, find queer people with your values. Look for gay-frequented gyms, and queer social, athletic, and religious groups off-campus. You should also research other schools in more conservative locations. Auntie recommends reading *Coming Out Right: A guide for the gay male* by W. Muchmore and W. Hanson.

For all our sakes, learn about your culture's diversity. This is just the beginning. ▼



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