



MS Manners —

Notes From a Jealous Wife

For those of you who were hoping that a high rung rating on the politically correct ladder would save you from a horrific title of "the jealous wife," guess again. (For matters of politically correct simplification, the term "wife" will apply to ~~both~~ all genders.)

Since entering graduate school at UNC, I have found myself starring in a docu-drama which resembles a cross between "I Love Lucy" and "Mission Impossible." This can be attributed to many factors, all of which are high on the stress test list: a new environment, unattainable goals, impossible deadlines, a homophobic department, etc. And all of these factors wreak havoc on the heart and mind as Lucy also attempts to create a relaxed and stable relationship with her new lover. In fact, it would seem that the two concepts represent a contradiction in terms.

To put it bluntly, can one be a Grad. Scout and find jealous-free true love? I have consulted the as yet unpublished Gay and Lesbian Grad. Scout Handbook and have come up with a list of do's and don't's that even MISS Manners might be proud of (her heterosexuality is merely a rumor).

First off, some basic, no-so-pretty facts. We all have a name for it; some of us call it Lesbian Hospital, others, Gays of our Lives. But whatever you call the soap opera that has become synonymous with your social environment, the fact remains that "the community" can prove very small. Many of us know the feeling of walking into a bar, restaurant, or cafe, hoping for that romantic evening, only to be waited on by your lover's ex-lover and seated next to one of yours. Life in hell. Some of these situations are clam, relaxed, and mature, but I have yet to experience one of this genre. My response to this type of situation has violated the Grad. Scout Handbook's suggestions; I cry, get sick, and if those don't work, lie through my teeth ("Oh, it's so NICE to meet you!"). For those of us who are still striving for a 10 on the p.c. scale, who hold all the truths in Lies, Secrets and Silence to be self evident, and who can't afford to keep moving out of town when it becomes too small, a new set of rules is in order.

No matter how many spoonfuls of "I'm not a jealous person" and "Attractions are perfectly natural" you may have swallowed, it's time to wake up and smell the proverbial coffee. The first thing a Jealous Wife must do is admit the addiction. (Though I am not calling for a Jealous Wives Anonymous, some of us could learn quite a bit from the A.A. philosophy on addiction.) If you found yourself wanting to accidentally-on-purpose pour your scalding coffee on the aforementioned waitperson, it's time to admit your jealousy and begin claiming it, accepting it, and dealing with it.

When the reasons behind the jealousy are examined and the issues become tangible, some of the paranoia should be alleviated. Fear of the unknown seems to be the driving force behind a lot of jealous behavior, and of course, our favorite current buzzword "control" is the key to a lot of the dilemmas the Jealous Wife faces. Who maintains control in the relationship? And how? What is behind the fear of other lovers? How does flirting work in the relationship. How do control dynamics differ in public and private? And most (see JEALOUS WIFE on page 13)

An Answer to HRCF

I read with some concern the Human Rights Campaign Fund's appeal in the last Lambda for support from groups not now represented. The points raised were valid. Yet I feel an understanding of some of the forces behind this non-representativeness of their contributors was lacking. The article seemed to insinuate that the cause is not enough concern.

While that is true for many, for others the reasons go deeper and can be found in the general structure of society. When I was interning with the National Organization for Women this summer, I wrote an article on why the public image of the gay community is so white male.

While my article does not address the non-involvement of so many GWMs, it does address the non-involvement of the rest of

us. And I think it is an appropriate response to the implied accusation of apathy for us G/L non-whites, non-males.

If one were to go only by what one sees in the popular media, it would be easy to believe that all homosexuals are white and male, and have a proclivity to wear the persona (and clothes) of the opposite sex. Yet those of us who know Gays and Lesbians are aware that it is not true; homosexuals are diverse, coming from all backgrounds, and there is no reason to believe there are any more gay men than Lesbians.

There are myriad reasons why the g/l community is seen to wear a certain face when it is well-known that homosexuals encompass the whole range of human

(see WHO WE ARE on page 6)