

More editor's mail

'Gay' column offends reader

After all this world has been through - the intolerance, prejudice, narrow-minded cruelty that is gradually being recognized, admitted to and if not yet changed, at least altered - we couldn't believe our eyes when we read an article which condemns 10 to 15 per cent of our society.

Tracy Kibble's article stating her opinion that having a Gay Pride Day was equivalent to "Baking My First Chiffon Cake Day" was offensive.

As a person who claims to have friends who are gay (more than she realizes) it is difficult for us to understand how Tracy can belittle the importance of a group whose only request is to be able to express and share their feelings of self-acceptance.

Because of the ignorance of the status quo, so many young lives are tormented by the realization that one's sexuality differs from what is "acceptable." It is often not the case that family or friends will offer a positive support system - generally the opposite is true.

This is where a support system made up of people who are understanding - through shared experience - can make a big difference in one's acceptance of themselves as a whole person.

The status quo and its belief in what is right for all within society has often proven to be mistaken.

Having black skin does not mean a person should be enslaved; being of the Jewish faith does not mean a person should be executed; being hand-

icapped does not make a person worthless - being a woman does not mean one should be dominated.

The injustices of this society alone are abundant. It flourishes on people's ignorance and it has been proven continuously that ignorance does not alter until those unaware are forced, intellectually and emotionally, to become aware of what is involved.

The taboo of human sexuality has been the cause of too many atrocities within society which is used to control groups of people through various power structures.

This control is often based on deprivation which often manifests itself in destructive "deviancy." This type of deviancy delivers to society such things as child molestation, rape, sexism, pornography, etc. It is the heterosexual community which is predominantly involved

in these abuses. Ignorance is not bliss - it is destructive.

In order to be rid of ignorance we must be exposed to the concepts of what we are ignorant of and in turn develop a tolerance which enables us to appreciate rather than condemn.

Can you imagine a world in which people spend more time and energy caring for and learning from each other rather than ridiculing and fearing one another?

Tracy, where would we be as women had it not been for our foremothers banding together to push for our rightful acceptance in the human race?

We should appreciate March 8, International Women's Day. It is a time designated for us to reinforce our pride in what we are as humans and who we are as individuals.

Sincerely,
Judy Phipps

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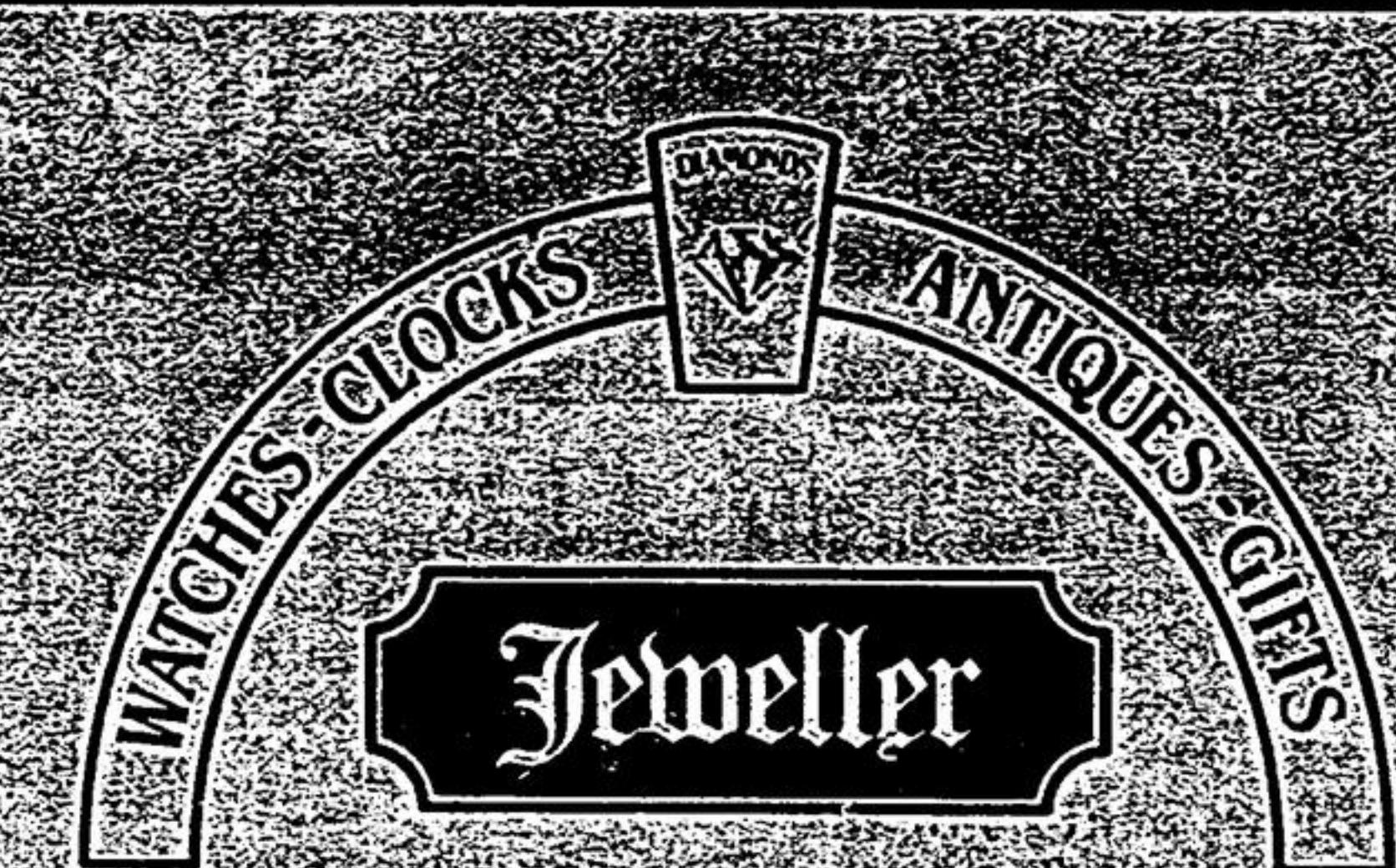
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