

right? Wrong! Thanks for helping me give up the guilt and see the bigger picture.

David Glaser
Columbia, MD

Thank You, Ms. Ellis

A 100-year-old lesbian who came out in 1915 ("Maverick," Jan./Feb. 2000)—Ruth Ellis truly is the 20th century! As a gay man, I realize that many times we forget the true trailblazers, the ones who didn't get recognized for their accomplishments. Ellis' story reminds me of the old adage, "Don't be who you are told to be. Don't be what you are expected to be. Simply be who and what you want to be." Ms. Ellis: My hat is off to you. The gay and lesbian community thanks you for your inspiration, courage, and, most of all, pure grace.

Randy Sindelar Corturillo
Cleveland, OH

In a Pig's Eye

Tinker Ready, in her explanation of the porcine transplants debate, left out some salient information ("Pork Futures," Jan./Feb. 2000). It is indeed cruel to destroy the pig, but no matter how well the prosthesis takes and survives the receiver's immune system, it is likely to last only three years or so and then must be replaced.

Ready also conveniently left out any other reference to the synthetic apparatus. Just as the anti-immune drugs are being updated, so are the synthetics, and even now, with anticoagulation, last a lifetime. What's more, lower-animal studies and vivisection are not needed, as if they ever were of any value. Nothing ever could have been promoted en masse until enough human recipients were successful; honest researchers have long admitted that lower-animal physiology is just not similar enough to transfer the data to *Homo sapiens*.

Don Sloan
New York, NY

Bothered and BeWilbered

Ken Wilber is one of the great thinkers of our generation, but once again I am disappointed by his condescending stance on "alien abduc-

tion" ("Hick Alert," Nov./Dec. 1999). I know a couple of the people who were with John Mack on the talk show Wilber mentioned, and know many other people who have had these kinds of experiences as well. All of them are acutely aware of how outrageously unbelievable reports of interactions with "hybrids" are. They have children, spouses, and careers. Their relationships often are jeopardized by the stress of the unusual nature of a contact experience and the misunderstanding and prejudice that surround the phenomenon. Yes, our culture says that this is impossible, and, no, we don't have any proof of anything. But as physicist Stanton Friedman often likes to quote, "Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence."

I hope that Wilber might some day ease his tone on this topic and simply express appreciation for "that which is unknown and currently not understood." This would relieve some of the pressure that I and others like me withstand from our cultural elite as we tentatively give ourselves permission to validate the truths of our own experiences.

Karin Austin
Cambridge, MA

Sweet Gifts

In "Return to Sender" (Nov./Dec. 1999), author David Ehrenfeld says, "Gifts are everywhere." I receive them daily from my environment and from my friends and neighbors. I live in northern Ontario, in a fairly remote area. Our small, extended community/family is one of the most wonderful gifts. We all understand the true meaning of sharing. One of our friends said once, "If you need something, and someone has it, and is not using it, you can have it until you don't need it anymore." The life we live here is about as close to ideal as you can get, and I am thankful every day.

Julianne Teshka
Thessalon, ON

Artistic Vision

Suzi Gablik ("The Unmaking of Modernism," Nov./Dec. 1999) is right on when she says the art market is

consumer driven. She understands that big-money investors were on the "right" track when they chased art because they don't know where art is going, so they are spokespeople like herself who sift out the wheat from the chaff. She is definitely behind the times on these concerns. The art of the past is merely a rehash. If she understood where art was going and was current in her information, she would have written a serious piece that

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