SWINGLINE #8, by Joyce Katz, 59 Livingston St., #6-B, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. Today is October 5, 1972, and this is for the 8th mlg. of APA, and it's again done on my office typer, which doesn't bode too well for pleasant-looking-typeface. Ah, well.... And, I've got a cold coming on, and in general feel blah, and my heart just isn't in it....but I've got this Compulsion to try to Make The Mailing, so my apazine numbers will continue to match up with the mailing numbers. Talking about Weird...

ROSS: --I'm fascinated by the tantalizing little tidbit of information you gave about your highschool. I had no idea at all that you came from a highschool with eight in the graduating class...and if I had known that particular statistic, would have assumed it meant you were raised in a very rural atmosphere. I mean, my first grade class had only one person in it...me...but it was in a one-room country school where there were eight grades all mixed together, and I just happened to be the only five year old in the Twin Springs District that year. I would have thought you meant something similar...and now I learn that you come from a whole Other Way Of Life. Someday tell me about it, won't you? -- My curiousity is really worked up over the how and why and what of this matter.

I applaud your remarks on forcing people to behave in a unisex manner when they aren't necessarily unisex personalities. By all means, people should have the freedom to wear which ever shoes fit the most comfortably, with no regard to the physical reproductive organs they might have been born with. For some that might mean one thing and for another it might mean something else entirely different. We are all, after all, bi-sexual; we should all be permitted to find our own happiness. -- Actually, people talk a great deal about allowing a woman the freedom to be masculine, or a man the freedom to be feminine...and that's all well and good. But I wonder at the rationale that would force the choice to be so abrupt. Face it, on the most simplistic level of all, I enjoy attributes of both sides of the fence: somedays I wear dresses with lots of frills and lace and ribbons and bows, and somedays I just feel a little more conservative and self-possessed; a mannishly-tailored pants-suit is sometimes appropriate for me. That's taking it to a very simplistic level, I'll agree...but the truth is obvious; it's as wrong to force someone to choose as it is to force someone to live in some out-moded code based strictly on reproductive organs. I share most modern women's displeasure at the notion of being socially pressured into being perpetually passive; however, I am also displeased by those of my sisters who would force me to always wear combat boots in this war of the sexes. (Wasn't that "cutely" said...sometimes I disgust even myself!) -- If Joy is a moderate (as I know she is, of course) then perhaps we should have conversations on the subject; hers would be the sanest voice on the subject I've heard for a long time. There aren't too many people around who haven't polarized into one camp or the other.