

# WHY I WON'T BE NORMAL

*By Katie Enos*

I've been labeled before. I'm supposed to be a jock and then a brain and then one of those music/theater people. I guess I like to keep surprising people. But what kind of life can you live in a tiny square box? My personality is less narrow. I like a lot of different things. But still, people like to be able to put you in a category, to be able to place you in even rows and put a sign at the front. They think the best you can achieve is being at the front of your row...but why not form your own row? Isn't that the definition of being a leader?

Maybe taking charge means something different nowadays. How come lately people think you're a leader just because you happen to be at the front of the line? A good leader need only point the way and watch as others follow a direction, not a figure. A great leader can lead without anyone ever knowing it. A spectacular leader can lead without ever knowing it themselves. The person at the front of the line is the puppet of someone that you couldn't name because someone else pointed the way. I must have missed something. I thought being a follower was letting other people shape your life. I thought it meant letting other people decide who you were going to be.

I won't conform. I won't let people class me. Because once you're there you're stuck. I will be whoever I want to be, and no one can stop me. I have something they don't have, which is nothing to lose. I have my entire life to live and I intend to live it the way I would like to live. I will form my own row. I will point in a new direction. If that means going against other peoples' opinion of normal, then so be it. Who says normal is right? Normal certainly strikes me as a boring way to live my life.