

Classified ad brings love and the unexpected

Dear Dr. Ray,

Last year at the age of 53 I moved from a small town in the Midwest to Portland. I moved because I was tired of being alone (I'd never had a lover or even anything close) and because I wanted to know other gay people.

I got several calls and letters in response to a "personals" ad I placed in a local gay paper. One of them was Randy, a beautiful, supportive 22-year-old. Two months ago he moved into my place.

Everything about our relationship is wonderful. But there is a terrible problem. Randy moved here from a small town a few hours away, where he had a "special" relationship with an elderly businessman. Randy obviously cares a great deal for this man but their relationship troubles me. Mr. X has told everyone in his town that he is Randy's father, which is not true. When Randy was in a car accident a few months ago Mr. X signed him into the hospital and had all the bills sent to him.

Now Mr. X calls every few days. He has even driven all the way to our apartment where Randy found him standing outside. He refuses to speak to me, but every time Randy gets off the phone with him he spends the rest of the day crying. Mr. X is now threatening Randy and says that Randy owes him \$5000 in hospital bills.

Randy keeps saying he'll toss this guy off, but he never does.

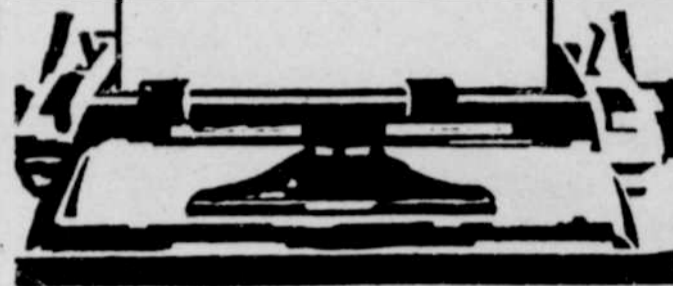
I don't want to see Randy hurt and this whole thing is putting a strain on our relationship. How can I help Randy?

Caught in the Middle

Dear Dr. Ray,

By

Dr. Raymond Berger



Dear Caught,

It sounds like Randy is torn between affection for his former mentor and a desire to break away from a relationship that is increasingly unfair to him. Eventually Randy is going to have to be firm about breaking away from this domineering man.

You should make it clear to Randy that he has no legal or financial responsibility to Mr. X if he never accepted money from him directly. Regarding the hospital bill, he should insist on dealing only with the hospital and doctor. A call or letter to the bookkeeping department and to his doctor(s) should clarify just what his financial responsibilities are.

This is not going to be easy for you. But the best thing you can do is to be supportive of Randy. Let him know that he can talk to you freely. Don't be threatened or defensive: Randy has clearly made a choice to be with you. Honor his faith in you by putting up with some minor inconvenience. But if the calls or visits become excessive help Randy to understand that you need to place limits on what

you'll accept in your home, regardless of who the visitor or caller is.

Remember that what you do now in the early stages of your relationship with Randy will set the tone for the rest of your relationship.

Dear Dr. Ray,

I'm heartbroken and I don't know who to turn to.

Two months ago I met the most wonderful man I've ever known at a party (I'll call him Brent). He seemed just as interested in me as I was in him. Pretty soon we began having a really intense sexual relationship, but I felt uncomfortable because it seemed like I always wanted more than he did.

When I met him he told me that he and his lover had broken up some months ago. So I never gave it another thought. But the first week he cancelled out on me because he said his lover had arranged a dinner that he had forgotten about. Then the following week he told me that at that dinner, he and his "ex" had spent the night together.

Last night he invited me over to his place and gave me some news that left me shattered. He and his lover have decided to rekindle their old flame and he doesn't want to sleep with me anymore. He just wants to be friends.

I've not been able to eat or sleep for the last two days. I don't want to be his friend. I want to be his lover. But I don't know what to do or who to talk to.

Paralyzed by Love

Dear Paralyzed,

You have obviously invested a lot of yourself in this man and so the loss of the relationship is painful for you.

It is clear that the first thing you must do is

to accept the fact that this man is not going to be your lover. He's given you a lot of signals that say his priority is his "ex" and not you.

Rather than take this as a reflection of your worth, understand that Brent and his lover have a history together, a factor which pulls them together, even though Brent obviously values you too. The fact that he chose to tell you about his decision, rather than to just dump you means that he does care about your feelings too.

Find a friend with whom you can unburden your feelings. And make a special effort to spend time with your friends, and to do things which will make you feel productive and worthwhile, as you learn to accept the new situation. You will begin to feel better with time.

Have a problem? Need advice? Write to "Dr. Ray" in care of **Just Out**, PO Box 15117, Portland, OR 97215. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to receive a personal reply.

*Dr. Raymond Berger, an individual, couple and family counselor, is author of the book **Gay and Gray: The Older Homosexual Man**. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Berger call 292-2735.*

For information regarding advertising call 236-1252

Jacqueline's SEE VUE MOTEL

Have a unique experience-build a fire-enjoy the sea in the style of Hemingway.

Antiques, plants, and always some of Jacqueline's sourdough bread.

Patchwork Quilt Suite available by the week for summer vacation. Two free nights out of seven.

Reservations • 547-3227
Seven miles south of Yachats

CASUAL • INTIMATE • RELAXING

JONAH'S THE Place for Seafood and Steaks

Original owners since 1977

LUNCH • DINNER • SUNDAY BRUNCH LOUNGE

7425 SW BARBUR BLVD

(at Terwilliger) 245-2188

FORWARD GEAR



New Location

917 SW Alder
224-8311

TWENTY-THIRD AVENUE B.O.O.K.S

Wide Selection of:

- Lesbian/Gay
- Best Sellers,
- Hardcover and
- Paperback Books.

Personal Services:

- Special Orders
- Gift Wrapping
- Gift Certificates

1015 NW 23rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 224-5097

Family

Divorce
Custody
Support
Modification
Visitations
Gay Couple
Agreements &
Breakups

Business

Contracts
Licensing
Admin. Hearings
Partnerships
Corporations
Small Businesses

Traffic

Tickets
Suspensions
Accidents
Drunk Driving

Workers Comp.

Hearings
Appeals
Preparation

Other

Wills
Bankruptcy
Property
Medical
Consents

Ben Merrill
295-2456

408 SW Second, Suite 519
Downtown Portland 97204

SANDRA K. PINCHES CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Counseling and Psychotherapy

Individuals, Couples, and
Families

Adolescents, Adults

Gay, Lesbian Individuals
and Couples

Relationship Problems

Depression

Stress

Partners of Alcoholics

1809 N.W. JOHNSON, SUITE 7
PORTLAND, OR 97209
(503) 227-7558