

Willamette Valley: Community

1015 COYOTE is an association for sex workers in Eugene. (PO Box 12244, Eugene, OR 97401.) (11/99)

AFTER 8 works for political change and provides information and referral for lesbians, gay men, trans and bisexuals in Benton and Linn counties and sponsors an annual Harvey Milk Awards Dinner in November. (7 pm second Tuesday, 101 NW 23rd St., Corvallis, PO Box 828, Corvallis, OR 97339. (541) 752-8157.) (5/00)

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Willamette Empire meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. (Bob (503) 371-8395, Lydia, Imperial Crown Princess (503) 463-8585.) (5/00)

Lesbian and Gay Parenting Group, for parents of children ages 0-3 years, meets the second Saturday of each month in Eugene. (Aqueene: (541) 344-5847.) (5/00)

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) provides support, education and advocacy. (6:45 pm third Monday at First Congregational Church on E 23rd Ave., Eugene. (541) 346-4239.) (5/00)

Men's Support Group, sponsored by Sweet Spirit Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), meets every Thursday at 7 pm to share concerns, discuss gay issues, and support the MCC community. Open to the public. (David: (503) 363-4828, Joseph: (503) 363-3392.) (5/00)

HEALTH

Metro: Anti-violence

Bradley-Angle House provides emergency shelter for female-identified domestic violence survivors and a support group for women battered by women. ((503) 232-7805, (503) 289-6869 ext. 11.) (11/99)

Clackamas Women's Services offer shelter, support and resource referral services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. (Office: (503) 722-2366, crisis line: (503) 654-2288.) (11/99)

Family Center Outreach Office, a program of Volunteers of America located in Southeast Portland, offers support groups and drop-in services to women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. (Natalie (503) 771-5503.) (11/99)

Portland Women's Crisis Line operates 24 hours a day. Interpretation services are available for women who speak limited or no English. ((503) 235-5333, 1-888-235-5333.) (11/99)

Roots and Branches and Bradley Angle House sponsor a **support group for queer youth** who have experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse in an intimate relationship. Free, confidential and safe. ((503) 238-0780.) (11/99)

Metro: Mental Health

Helios Counseling offers mental health services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans communities. (525 NE Oregon St., Suite 220, Portland, OR 97232. (503) 238-0780.) (5/00)

Metro: Recovery

Live and Let Live Club holds 12 step meetings and social activities for the lesbian and gay recovery community. Call for current meeting times and activities. (2940-A SE Belmont St. (503) 238-6091.) (11/99)

The Lunch Bunch hosts AA meetings for gays and lesbians, but is open to everyone. Meetings daily at noon except Sundays at 1 pm. (Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 NE Broadway, center on the north side of the building.) (5/00)

Rainbow Al-Anon meets Thursdays at 6 pm at the MCC Church, NW 24th Ave. and Broadway. ((503) 222-5756.) (5/00)

Willamette Valley: Health

Womenspace provides a 24-hour hot line and shelter for women and children who have been abused physically, sexually, or emotionally. Also hosts a lesbian and bisexual women's support group. (Crisis: (541) 485-6513, business: (541) 485-8232, lesbian alliance: (541) 302-2417.) (11/99)

SOCIAL

Metro: Arts & Music

First Wednesday Social is a potluck for HIV+ people and their friends. (Contact Phillip at (503) 234-1811.) (5/00)

The **Portland Lesbian Choir** welcomes supportive members and volunteers. ((503) 241-8994.) (5/00)

Lesbian writing group: journaling, poetry, fiction, beginner to published. (Judith (503) 245-3391, manson@teleport.com.) (11/99)

Portland Gay Men's Chorus is open to singers, support members and volunteers. ((503) 460-3689, www.pdxgmc.org.) (11/99)

The Real Connection is a social gathering for gay men who are artists, writers, musicians or who pursue some creative activity. Monthly potlucks on the second Friday. (Todd (503) 236-5763.) (11/99)

Rose City Gay Freedom Band is a concert band open to lesbian, gay, transgendered, bi and supportive musicians and friends. (PO Box 1082, Portland, OR 97207. (503) 790-2170, http://community.oregonlive.com/cc/rcgfb.) (11/99)

Metro: General

Bisexual Community Forum is an age- and gender-inclusive social, support and education network founded in 1980. Activities include dances, potlucks, field trips and a polyamory interest group. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays. (7:30 pm at Utopia Cafe, 3320 SE Belmont St. Laury (503) 285-4848.) (11/99)

Brother to Brother is a family of African-American gay and bisexual men dedicated to the empowerment of, and improvement in the quality of life within our community. Activities include FRIENDS, a weekly support and discussion group that meets Wednesdays 5-7 pm. Board meetings every third Monday of the month at 5:30 pm. (Brian, PO Box 3182, Portland, OR 97208. (503) 417-7991.) (11/99)

Cocksure is a social group for female-born, gender variant people including FTMs, transguys, genderqueers and significant others. We are based in Portland and welcome folks from Oregon and Washington. For more info about our monthly meetings and e-mail network, call (503) 471-1515. (5/00)



Singer Connie Cohen breezes into Touchstone Coffeehouse Feb. 18

Dipstick Lesbians and Dykes with Hot Rods invite women with cool cars to go cruising with them. (Rachel (503) 735-1184, Devioune (503) 289-3104.) (11/99)

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Gentle Giants of Oregon is a group dedicated to providing an accepting, social environment for chubby men, and the men who like them that way. ((503) 241-4535 or www.chubnet.net/gentlegiants.) (5/00)

Hoodland/Mount Hood womyn are building a personal and professional community. Alcohol and drug-free social activities and networking. (Kim (503) 701-8302.) (11/99)

Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon is a nonprofit social organization dedicated to raising money for charities within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans community. ISRC Event Hotline lists upcoming events. ((503) 306-0700, ISRC@aol.com, www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/7887.) (11/99)

An informal **Leather Night** and **Red Hanky Social** are held the first and third Friday of each month. (9 pm-12 am at the Dirty Duck Tavern, 439 NW Third Ave. (503) 224-8446, PDXSaltyDg@aol.com.) (5/00)

Jewish Gay Men's Group—call for meeting time and place. ((503) 246-5939, efrainlevi@aol.com.) (5/00)

Lair Dungeon hosts monthly discussion groups and separate men's, women's and pansexual B/D/S/M parties. Refer to web site for schedule. (www.hawkenet.com/lairofthewolf.html.) (5/00)

Lesbians Enjoying the Sciences is a fun-loving group of women who enjoy exploring all aspects of the environment. Activities include bird watching, nature walks, archaeology, rock collecting, camping, kayaking, star gazing, an occasional "lecture" and a monthly planning potluck. No experience necessary. (7-9 pm fourth Thursday planning meeting. (503) 280-0168.) (5/00)

Lesbian social group for women 50 and over meets on the third Saturday of the month. (4-7 pm. (503) 281-4424, (503) 331-0415.) (11/99)

Long Yang Club—Portland Chapter, a social group for Asian gays and lesbians and their friends, meets at 8 pm on the first Wednesday and third Sunday of each month at 3 Friends Coffeehouse. ((503) 963-1841 or (503) 735-9425, lycpdx@ados.com.) (5/00)

Lulu's Pervy Playhouse is a social group for self-identifying women who are into SM. Play parties are held on the second Saturday of the month. (lululist@hotmail.com, www.jps.net/wynter/luluspage.html, (503) 231-3992.) (05/00)

Northwest Gender Alliance is a social and support organization for cross-dressers and transsexuals. Monthly open meetings and socials. (PO Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208. (503) 646-2802, www.teleport.com/~nwga.) (11/99)

Oregon Bears is a social group for bears and their admirers. Newsletter, activities and monthly social gatherings. ((503) 240-2813, www.oregonbears.org.) (11/99)

ORGAN (Oregon Regional Gay and Naked) is a social club for nude men who enjoy being gay. Monthly potlucks and events. Guests are invited to attend two events before deciding on membership. (ORGAN, PO Box 14174, Portland, OR 97293-0174.) (11/99)

Portland Bisexual Alliance hosts social and political events for bisexual and bi-friendly people. Organizes Portland Bi Day rally and publishes calendar of bi events. Mixed gender discussion groups are held 7 pm on the first and third Fridays of the month at Laughing Horse Books, 3652 SE Division St. Open to all. ((503) 775-9717, pba@biportland.org, www.biportland.org.) (5/00)

Portland Bisexual Women is a support and discussion group for bisexual and questioning women. Women of any race, age or national origin are encouraged to attend. (7-9 pm second Friday at Common Ground Wellness Center, 2926 NE Flanders St. 5:30-7:45 pm fourth Sunday at It's My Pleasure, 3106 NE 64th Ave. \$2 donation. (503) 283-6433.) (11/99)

Portland Leather Alliance is a pansexual, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering a positive community for safe, sane, and consensual alternative adult sexualities in general and S/M/leather/fetish in particular. ((503) 727-3148, www.pdxleatheralliance.org.) (5/00)

Portland Metro Prime Timers meets from 3-6 pm every fourth Sunday of the month at Metropolitan Community Church Social Hall, 2400 NE Broadway. (PO Box 5884, Portland, OR 97228. (503) 625-8957, pdxprimertimers@yahoo.com.) (11/99)

PSU Queers and Allies invites everyone to participate in activities and meetings. Educational and social programming, support and referral services for persons of all orientations and colors. (441A Smith Memorial Center, Portland State University campus. E-mail: queer-sandalies@mail.pdx.edu, www.ess.pdx.edu/sfscg/queersandalies. (503) 725-5681.) (11/99)

Rose City Discussion Club, the largest open pansexual club in the Northwest, is open to all orientations, fetishes and lifestyles that are safe, sane and consensual. Monthly meetings, workshops, and newsletter. ((503) 650-7052, rcdc@teleport.com, www.teleport.com/~rcdc.) (11/99)

Together Works, a confidential group for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and friends, meets for socials and discussions of topics of mutual interest. Meets second and fourth Mondays. (7:30 pm May-Sept., 7 pm Oct.-April. First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cowles St., McMinnville. Don (503) 434-6266.) (11/99)

Metro: Physical Recreation

The Adventure Group, Portland's gay and lesbian outdoors group, organizes a variety of activities and social events including hiking, skiing, mountain biking, camping and rafting. ((503) 452-5680, www.adventuregroup.org.) (5/00)

Border Riders Motorcycle Club, the largest motorcycle club for gay men and friends in Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest, hosts day runs and camping events. (lcbiker@yahoo.com, www.borderriders.org.) (11/99)

FOREST Group outings are cooperative adventures for women. Participants are responsible for providing their own equipment and choosing outings appropriate for their skill and fitness level. All skill levels welcome. ((503) 286-5382, www.odin.cc.pdx.edu/~gjm.) (5/00)

K-9 Club is a group of kindred folks and their dogs who meet to hike and talk in Portland parks on the second Sunday of each month. ((503) 285-2986.) (11/99)

Lesbian Garden Club is a social group that tackles major gardening projects in members' gardens, holds social events and visits various gardens and nurseries throughout the year. (Nicki, (503) 287-6120.) (11/99)

Out Dancing teaches partner dancing for same-sex couples at Sally Mack's School of Dance. Classes for different dance styles start the first Friday of each month. ((503) 236-5129.) (5/00)

PDX Rain Riders is Portland's gay and lesbian motorcycle club. ((503) 641-6452, www.gaypdx.com/rainriders.) (11/99)

Portland Gay and Lesbian Community Bowling Association bowls Sundays at 4 pm at Hollywood Lanes, 40th Ave. and Halsey St. (PO Box 80002, Portland, OR 97280-1002. (503) 293-0438.)

Romance with Empress Misha

DEAR PORTLAND DATELESS:

Do you find yourself weekend after weekend with no date and no partner? Or when you do find a date you never make it to the second one? Are you having problems keeping up the heat in the love shack? Or do you just need some advice on the right outfit or the right place to swoon that person?

Well, the answers to all your dating and romance needs are met right here with Portland's Diva of Dating and Romance, Empress Misha.

For years I've been matching up lesbian, bisexual, trans and gay Portlanders, and now you'll be able to find some of your questions and dating problems resolved right here once a month in the pages of *Just Out*. (Of course, you can also find me live in person every Tuesday at Boxxes for Misha's Make-A-Date and online at www.themakeadate.com for additional dating support 24-7.)

This being the Season of Love with valentines still in the air, this is the perfect time for me to debut my new Romance University. This is also the perfect time to be finding someone special, being the cold season and all. I know that I, too, am looking for some heat in the sheets!

Often the best partners are right under our noses; your love match could be inches from you and you never know it. Well, sweetie, I suggest you take a quick look around and see which of your close friends or new acquaintances has been calling and hanging around a lot. Most likely that is the person who, like you, often just hasn't had the nerve to disclose his secret desires.

Besides checking out the scenery in your usual habitats, take a look around at some other gatherings. Try going to a couple of new events this month or group activities such as gay sports groups, where you will often find people just like yourself looking for romance.

Just as in a job environment, it is essential to show your assets and make yourself competitive. And just as in the workforce, the romance arena is a battleground of competitive lovers. One of the best things to do for yourself—and this is the best time—is to head to the local gym.

Talk about hitting two birds with one hit! You will not only start getting your snacks in shape, but you might find something worth snacking on yourself while at the gym. That's right—there is a literal love buffet waiting at the gyms. Queer folks are often more conscious about their appearance than straight folks, so you will more than likely increase your chances for finding a mate at the gym.

The best thing about the gym is that you will start feeling a lot better about yourself with a new shape, and you'll have the energy to sweep someone off their feet. People can sense confidence and well-being, and this is a strong aphrodisiac.

People always say the right hair and the right clothes are the right answer. While I agree somewhat with this philosophy, I don't agree wholeheartedly. Being a queen, I can truly appreciate the fashion thang, and I know that heads can turn when one walks into a room with the right hair and outfit. But a lot of that is really the signal you are radiating to the room: "I feel great."

One of the worst things you can do is run out to the beautician and to the malls and buy yourself a new look; this can be dangerous without proper planning. I always suggest talking to your closest friends and seeing what they like most about your look. I have always said don't fix it if it's not broken. You are going to be more confident knowing that you are comfortable with yourself.

Positive reinforcements from your friends will help, but there is nothing wrong with a little change in the wardrobe and hair department—in moderation. Try a little at a time and see what people think, and whatever you decide to do, do it for yourself. Just don't turn yourself from queer-next-door to Marilyn Manson overnight—you're likely to freak out everyone, including yourself.

And if all else fails, and there is no one to turn to, you've always got me, babe. So send me your tired, your weary and your dateless! And yes, my sugar lips, send your romance letters and questions to Misha at *Just Out*, P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400, or e-mail me at misha@theMisha.com. Send me some love and happy shopping!



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