

ADVICE

Straight talk

Lovelorn readers looking for love in all the wrong faces



Ms. Behavior

DEAR HETERO'S PENCHANT:

The notion of dismissing a fabulous sexual partner feels tragic to Ms. Behavior. But wasting your passion on someone who plans to kick you to the curb when the "right man" comes along is even more crushing. (Please don't bother with the hope that maybe she's really a lesbian and in denial; if this is true and she's in her mid-40s, it's not necessarily good news.)


The biggest problem with this scenario is if you're really falling in love, you probably won't adequately protect your heart. Penchant Woman will squash you like a bug.

Later, when you finally do meet a fabulous woman worthy of your devotion, you'll blow it because you'll be bitter from having squandered your adoration on Penchant Woman. Then, you'll torture and damage the fabulous new woman with your rejection,

forcing her to subsequently spread her sorrow to another lesbian, and so on and so on, which will perpetuate the cycle of lesbo pain ad infinitum.

It's probably a lot to ask, because you're young and new to this love stuff, but if you practice a little

damage control here, you might prevent the extinction of the entire dyke species. Ms. Behavior realizes this is probably a longer view than you want.

So, the simpler answer is this: Cut the cord with your heterosexual nongirlfriend if you can. Otherwise, you risk having her sever it with her teeth, at great expense to both your tender umbilicus and lesbian civilization. 

Write your confused and conflicted heart out to MS. BEHAVIOR at MsBehavior@aol.com.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I am an extremely eligible 40-something gay man, widowed long enough to be interested in dating again but not so long that I haven't been able to shake the awful feeling that I'm some kind of a gay Rip Van Winkle. I'm attempting to confront many strange and mysterious things with an open mind, one of which is: What is one supposed to do with those tit rings during sex? Give 'em a tug?

But that's not what I'm writing about. I've never liked bars or really needed them, because I seem to attract dating possibilities in my everyday life.

In that vein, I'm meeting guys— younger ones—who appear to be gay in every way and even show signs of sexual interest but, at the end of the day, are straight! Could this be?

Is there some growing population of quasi-crypto homos? Or are they more likely to be plain old closet cases?

I know you can't answer this question with authority unless you were to meet, interview and perhaps even probe the people I'm talking about. But I would be interested in any advice you have in dealing with them.

—Confewwwwzd

DEAR CONFEEWWWWZD:

Ms. Behavior doesn't need to probe anyone to know you've been in cold storage for too long (and probably need a good probing yourself). When you say you're attracting dating possibilities in your everyday life, do you mean these younger, gay-appearing straight men? Or, even worse, closet cases?

Go to where the homos hang, doll. You don't have to go to bars if you don't like them.

Find a neighborhood restaurant, a queer theater group, a gay stamp club or a Nellie political organization. Your ability to discern who's gay and who's just a little dapper around the edges will soon return.

As a special bonus, you'll probably find someone who can educate you in all manners of pulling or biting his tit ring in just the right way.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I am a 22-year-old lesbian, and I always fall for older women. Recently, I ended up with a 44-year-old divorced woman who has three children.

She was never with a woman prior to me and says she could never have a relationship with a woman. She's waiting for the "man of her dreams"...but in the meantime, the sex is out of this world, and I



My problem: I am falling for her, but she is looking for Mr. Right. And I am confused as all hell.

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation in the liberal Christian tradition. Sunday worship is at 10:25 am, and church school for children runs concurrently. (1126 SW Park Ave., 503-228-7219.)

Full Circle Temple is a place of worship for women of all ages offering workshops, song and drum circles, meditation rooms and altars of celebration, incorporating what you bring to share. (10 am-10 pm Tuesday-Sunday, 3125 E Burnside St. 503-238-0675.) (11/00)

The God Connection Center for Worship, Growth and Leadership invites you to celebrate your spirituality with the Revs. Berdell Moffett and Casey Chaney. Liberal, practical; all are welcome. (10 am service every Sunday, 4828 NE 33rd Ave. 503-481-7591.) (11/00)

Grace Space, a newly formed multidominational spiritual center led by the Rev. Stephanie Torres, holds Sunday evening celebrations. (5 pm at Unity Church, 4525 SE Stark St. 503-287-3216.) (11/00)

Integrity, the gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal Church, meets on the second Friday of each month in the Morrison Room at Trinity Cathedral. Eucharist is celebrated at 6:45 pm followed by a potluck and fellowship. (147 NW 19th Ave., 503-289-1687.)

Interfaith Spiritual Center. Gay men's spirituality groups form every other month. Spiritual directors from various world religious traditions are available for guidance, classes and retreats. (3910 SE 11th Ave., second floor. 503-233-2026, ext. 3. www.hometown.aol.com/djrho5/webpage.html.) (11/00)

Lesbian and gay meditation group. "Compassionate Heart Sangha," meets for meditation in the Buddhist Vipassana tradition. Donation requested. (7:30-9 pm Wednesdays at Flanders House, 2926 NE Flanders St. Jon 503-239-5539.) (11/00)

Metanoia Peace Community (United Methodist) is a "house church," bringing gay and straight together. (Daily prayer 7:20 am, Sunday gathering 6 pm at 2116 NE 18th Ave. 503-281-3697.) (11/00)

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland holds ecumenical Sunday morning worship services at 9 and 11 am. Sunday school for children is held during the 11 am worship service. (2400 NE Broadway, 503-281-8868. mcccpx@aol.com.) (11/00)

Potter's House Ministries Life Center. Evangelical and charismatic Christian. (3830 SE 62nd Ave. 503-775-5024.) (11/00)

Radical Fairies Fae Dirt info line: 503-235-0826 (11/00)

SisterSpirit offers women's spirituality celebrations, discussion groups, a drumming circle, workshops and classes. Schedule of events available. All women are welcome. (Office hours: 3-6 pm Tuesday-Friday at 3430 SE Belmont St., #102. Mailing address: PO Box 9246, Portland, OR 97207. sistersp@teleport.com. 503-736-3297.) (11/00)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is a challenging, supportive community that welcomes all people. It is the first More Light Presbyterian Church in Oregon. (Sundays at 10 am summer, 9:30 and 11 am winter. 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073.) (11/00)

St. Philip Neri gay and lesbian outreach. A gay/lesbian-positive community for Catholics and their friends. Mass at 7:30 pm on Fridays followed by a social. (Paulist Center, 2408 SE 16th Ave. 503-231-4955.) (11/00)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the new home of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, has been welcoming all people since 1863. (Wednesday service 12:10 pm; Sunday services 7:45 am and 10 am. Sunday school and child care at 10 am. Southwest 13th Avenue at Clay Street. 503-223-6424.) (11/00)

University Park United Methodist Church is a member of the network of Reconciling Congregations and meets for worship each Sunday at 10 am. (4775 N Lombard St. 503-289-7843.) (11/00)

Zion United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, is open to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and heterosexual people who wish to worship in a Christ-centered, warm, caring, multiage/race/cultural faith community. (Service: 11 am Sundays, 2025 NE 23rd Ave., Gresham. 503-665-8741.) (11/00)

Washington: Spirituality

East Vancouver United Methodist Church. Reconciling, welcoming. (10 am Sundays. 5701 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver. 360-693-4761. ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273.) (11/00)

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Two Sunday services, traditional and "less traditional" in an open and affirming congregation. (1220 NE 68th St. Vancouver. 360-693-1476.) (11/00)

Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd. (10 am Sundays. 913 W. 13th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1480.) (11/00)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. (10 am Sundays. 4505 E. 18th St. 360-695-1891.) (11/00)

Willamette Valley: Spirituality

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is an open and affirming congregation offering worship and church school. Child care provided. Wheelchair accessible. (10 am Sundays. 700 Marion St.

NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.) (11/00)

The Gay-Straight Alliance of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem meets on the third Sunday of each month for a potluck. (6 pm. 5090 Center St. NE. 503-363-8716.) (11/00)

Interfaith Spiritual Community meets every Sunday at the Heart Center for inspirational messages, children's celebrations and joy. We honor and celebrate all sacred paths, recognizing each person's divine gifts and supporting spiritual growth, healing and enlightenment. (6:30 pm. 1578 Commercial St. SE, Salem. 503-763-6030.) (11/00)

Morningside United Methodist Church is a reconciling congregation where everyone is welcome to participate in the full life of the congregation. (8:30 and 11 am Sundays. 3674 12th St. SE, Salem. 503-364-5013.) (11/00)

Sweet Spirit Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) holds worship at 11 am Sundays followed by coffee and fellowship as well as potluck lunches every second Sunday. (Services held at American Legion Hall, 4774 Lilac Lane NE, Salem. Mailing address: Pastor Ken Kerr, PO Box 12753, Salem, OR 97309. 503-315-7923.) (11/00)

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Outside In operates a clinic for anyone who can't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan as well as a needle exchange service. It also has some transitional housing for youth 20 and younger as well as for youth who are HIV+ and younger than 23. It also plays host to **VOICES** (Voices of Individual and Community Empowerment from the Streets), a self-support group for queer youth. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday. 1236 SW Salmon St. 503-223-4121.) (11/00)

Phoenix Rising Foundation Inc. is a community agency primarily serving sexual minority youth. The Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center (SMYRC) plays host to drop-in socials and support groups for queer youth. Metro groups held at SMYRC; other groups include: **Bridge 13**, a youth speaker's bureau (503-872-9664), **Hillsboro Youth Group** (4-5:30 pm Wednesdays at Room 125, Public Services Building, 155 N First St., Hillsboro), **Transitions** (3:30-5 pm Wednesdays in Room 8, 11640 SW Parkway, Beaverton). (503-238-0780.) (11/00)

Pride Project brings together Washington County lesbian, gay, bi, trans and questioning youth to plan and attend monthly social events. Also information, referral, support and advocacy services for Washington County. (Molly 503-260-5792.) (11/00)

Rainbow is a multicultural peer support and activity group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and questioning youth. (4:30 pm Mondays at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868.) (11/00)

Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center (SMYRC) is a program of Phoenix Rising Foundation offering drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Also plays host to weekly youth support groups including Windfire, Trans Youth Group and Personal Deity Proxy (a creative group). (4-8 pm Wednesday, 4 pm-midnight Friday and Saturday, 424 E Burnside St. 503-872-9664, www.smyrc.org.) (11/00)

Youth HIV/STD Prevention Project provides fun and educational programs along with counseling and testing to queer youth in a friendly, relaxed environment. Sponsored by Phoenix Rising Foundation in collaboration with Multnomah County and Outside In. (503-872-9664.) (11/00)

YouthNet, a program of Love Makes a Family, offers tutoring and mentoring for lesbian, gay, bi and trans youth as well as for children of LGBT parents. (503-227-1981.) (11/00)

Southern Oregon: Youth

The **Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Group of Klamath Falls** provides support for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth and their allies. (For more information, e-mail boytoy22@hotmail.com.) (11/00)

Southern Oregon Youth Outreach (SOYO), a group for gay, lesbian, and bi youth aged 14-20 meets on the first and Thursdays of the month in Ashland. (541-488-6990.) (11/00)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point Youth Program is a social/support group for gays, lesbian, bi and trans youth between 13 and 22 in Vancouver, Wash. Meets 6-8 pm Tuesdays and 3:30-5:30 pm Thursdays at 1104 Main St. Suite M-100. (Amanda 360-693-1188.) (11/00)

Willamette Valley: Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth Group for ages 13-18 offers support, information and fun. Free, confidential, drop-in. (4-6 pm Fridays at Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., Eugene. 541-684-3466.) (11/00)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth group for ages 25 and younger meets every Monday. (5 pm Mondays at Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St., Eugene. 541-346-1134.) (11/00)