

ADVICE

Off-color remarks

Fashion rules are made to be broken

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I think you are the only one who can help me in this crisis. I know, I know, I should have my pink card taken away from me, be slapped silly with a Manolo Blahnik shoe (last season's, of course) and have to admit Bruce Willis is a talented actor, but I have nowhere else to turn!



Ms. Behavior

Here is my dilemma: What is the big deal about not wearing white after Labor Day? I've asked someone who is from the "old school of Southern ways," and I thought she could help, but this is the interaction, word for word. Well, sort of.

ME: So, why shouldn't we wear white after Labor Day?

HER: Because you shouldn't.

ME: Why not?

HER: Because it is tacky.

ME: Why?

HER: Because it just is.

Well, with that all cleared up, I can die a happy man. So, I hope you can see the reason for my problem and embarrassment and help me.

Oh! GREAT ONE OF THE WORLD!!

—mcam

DEAR MCAM:

Ms. Behavior herself makes it a practice never to wear white so as not to be mistaken for a bride or a virgin. But if you tan well (which Ms. Behavior does not) and feel compelled to show off, you might not be able to resist wearing the contrasting noncolor.

This can be forgiven, unless you wear white shoes. (White shoes in general are a no-no unless you're a woman attending her own wedding. Why, you might ask? Because white shoes are dorky.)

Wearing white in general has its hazards. First, if you drop something on your white shirt, it won't blend in.

Second, you can't get away with much perspiration in a white shirt. Most importantly, of course, white is not slimming.

But none of the above addresses the seasonality issue you ask about. The main reason for not wearing white after Labor Day is so you don't risk being mistaken for a straight Miami drug dealer, a male nurse or a Palm Springs golf dandy. But if you're not concerned about your image, there's no reason to pay attention to such stringent and arbitrary fashion guidelines.

Who's on your case, anyway? Probably some shallow, underdeveloped club queens who have to recy-

cle their wardrobes every solstice so they don't risk appearing out of vogue to other shallow, underdeveloped club queens.

So, Ms. Behavior gives you her permission to break all the fashion rules. Live it up.

Wear socks with your sandals. Wear a belt with your suspenders.

If you don't have any clean black socks, wear the nubby beige ones your aunt gave you for Christmas. And wear a smile when you sit alone on Saturday nights, washing your hair and watching the weekend television lineup.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I recently was asked to resign from a Christian gospel group I am heavily involved in because it came to light that I am indeed a butt pirate.

I'm not sure what to do. Crying for two hours didn't do anything.

Should I quit? Refuse to quit?

They did break a nondiscrimination clause in their constitution by doing this. Should I picket outside our next rehearsal?

I'm torn because I really enjoyed this group, and taking judicial action against them would...well, not be fun. Your omniscience would be helpful right now.

—Smudge

DEAR SMUDGE:

Don't allow these so-called Christians to closet their unbrotherly position. Get the media involved.

If you're being forced to leave your place of worship, it would be best to go out with a bang (preferably on the church lawn). If reasonable conversation gets you nowhere and bad publicity doesn't convince the other congregants to turn the other cheek on their homophobia, you could pretend to offer to resign but on the condition you're allowed to do a solo performance.

Then come up with a series of songs expressing your position. (Think of it as "The Sodomy Medley.")

Your friends surely will be able to help you rewrite the lyrics to some classic church tunes so worshipers barely will remember that "Amazing Grace" didn't previously include references to cocksucking and that "Ave Maria" isn't about a drag queen. Then find yourself a friendlier place to spend your Sundays. ☺

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

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center (SMYRC) offers 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.) (12/00)

Youth HIV/STD Prevention Project provides fun and educational programs along with counseling and testing to queer youth in a friendly, relaxed environment. (503-872-9664.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Southern Oregon Youth Outreach (SOYO), a group for gay, lesbian, bi and trans youth aged 14-20 meets on the first and Thursdays of the month in Ashland. (541-488-6990.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Directions Northwest (ECWR) helps gay and lesbian Christians integrate faith and sexuality through Bible study and fellowship. (PO Box 86383, Portland, OR 97286-0383. 503-727-3387.) (12/00)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, a welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service at 10:30 am. (1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. eastrose@teleport.com.) (5/01)

Estacada United Methodist Church Reconciling Congregation, where we really mean everyone is welcome. Sunday worship at 10:30 am. (204 SE Main St., Estacada.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Grace Space, a newly formed multid denominational spiritual center led by the Rev. Stephanie Torres, holds Sunday evening celebrations. (5 pm at Unity Church, 4525 SE Stark St. 503-287-3216.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Lesbian and gay meditation group. "Compassionate Heart Sangha," meets for meditation in the Buddhist Vipassana tradition. (7:30-9 pm Wednesdays at Flanders House, 2926 NE Flanders St. Jon 503-239-5539.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Potter's House Ministries Life Center. Evangelical and charismatic Christian. (3830 SE 62nd Ave. 503-775-5024.) (12/00)

Radical Fairies Fae Dirt info line: 503-235-0826 (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Washington: Spirituality

East Vancouver United Methodist Church. Reconciling, welcoming. (10 am Sundays. 5701 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver. 360-693-4761. ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273/) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd. (10 am Sundays. 913 W 13th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1480.) (12/00)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. (10 am Sundays. 4505 E 18th St. 360-695-1891.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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. (6-7:30 pm. 1578 Commercial St. SE, Salem. 503-763-6030.) (12/00)

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.) (12/00)

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.)



PHOTO BY LINDA VOIGT

Motherlode performs contemporary folk music Dec. 2 at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Beaverton