

ADVICE

The outer limits

Overbearing mother has boundary problems

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My mother is driving me crazy, and I don't mean in the homophobic way you might expect from a woman with a flaming nellye of a son.

She recently outed me to our family dentist (moments before a root canal). If someone mentions plans to redecorate, she says, "Speaking of decorators, my son is gay."

Every time she meets a man she suspects might be queer, she says: "You're a homosexual, aren't you? Would you like to meet my son?"

I know I should be grateful for her support, and my friends all tell me they're envious, but I'm mortified. How can I get her to stop?

—Matricidal Max

DEAR MATRICIDAL MAX:

Mommy has boundary problems and needs a hobby. Tell her that you appreciate her love and support but that you know of others who need it more.

The enthusiasm you find so humiliating might best be channeled into charitable volunteer work. For instance, your mother could distribute condoms and dental dams at dance clubs or be a planted gay-supportive audience member on *The Jerry Springer Show*.

You could encourage her to volunteer at a gay and lesbian community center, where she could hug young queers who are rejected after coming out to their own parents, or distribute how-to brochures about tribadism to baby dykes without a clue. The Boy Scouts of America probably would appreciate a heterosexual spokesperson, or she could start her own organization of Mothers Against Stupid Homophobes.

She could become Ms. Behavior's personal assistant and sort through thousands of missives from distressed and perplexed gay men and lesbians and bestow her blessing on their anguished heads. Maybe she could start a queer catering company and hire only gay male waiters—an endless source of dates for you—and specialize in huge, flamboyant phallic desserts.

If she has other opportunities to be seen and appreciated for her support, perhaps she won't inflict it all on you, spilling details of your personal life in inappropriate places and trying to find you a husband. But you probably will need to reassure her that you're happy



Ms. Behavior

about being a nellye and that your wish for privacy isn't motivated by shame.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Your recent letter from Disillusioned saying all gay relationships are fake and all about sex was really sad.

My lover and I, who have been together for 28 years, share a full and happy life, and it's not all

about sex. We have many friends who are also happy lovers.

Believing that love is not possible between two men sounds like brainwashing by moralists who will try to demean any possibility of two men living happily together. The poor guy sounds like he has a strong case of internalized homophobia.

If Disillusioned thinks he would be immediately happy in a heterosexual relationship, he is quite mistaken. He would carry his baggage with him.



Perhaps Disillusioned expects too much from a relationship—that it will fulfill all his needs and be a bed of non-demanding roses. I know people who run away after the first conflict with a partner, when infatuation is punctured by the sharp points of reality.

Any worthwhile relationship requires honest self-examination and real caring. If you are in a relationship to be loved, it's the wrong reason. It's more about loving another than selfishly seeking an admirer.

I see a lot of guys who are seeking acceptance and mistake it as love. They would be far better off if they looked in the honesty mirror and learned to accept the human realities and frailties in themselves and in their lovers.

—Gay, Happy and In Love

DEAR GAY, HAPPY AND IN LOVE:

Thank you and dozens of other happy homos who wrote in to affirm that beautiful love exists between men. ☐

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

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Expression is a free art/expression support group for GLBT youth between 13 and 18 years old who live in the Gresham area. Learn, grow and have fun! Sponsored by Roots and Branches. (5-7 pm Friday, Jonathan 503-238-0780, ext. 244.) (6/01)

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-positive 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.) (6/01)

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.) (6/01)

Rainbow is a multicultural peer support and activity group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and questioning youth. (4:30 pm Monday, Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 NE Broadway, 503-281-8868.) (11/01)

Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center (SMYRC) offers drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out and plays host to weekly youth support groups including Windfire, Trans Youth Group and Personal Deity Proxy (a creative group). (4-8 pm Monday and Wednesday, 4 pm-midnight Friday and Saturday, 2100 SE Belmont St. 503-872-9664, www.smyrc.org.) (11/01)

SMILE is a free education/support group for GLBT youth between 13 and 18. Learn, grow and have fun! Sponsored by Roots and Branches. (5-6:30 pm Thursday, Jonathan 503-238-0780, ext. 244.) (6/01)

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.) (6/01)

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.) (6/01)

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. (boytoty22@hotmail.com.) (6/01)

Southern Oregon Youth Outreach (SOYO), a group for gay, lesbian, and bi youth between 14 and 20, meets on the first and Thursdays of the month in Ashland. (541-488-6990.) (6/01)

Washington: Youth

Teen to Teen Sexual Minority Youth Program offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi and trans and questioning youth in Vancouver, Wash. Meets 6-8 pm Tuesdays and 3:30-5:30 pm Thursdays in Suite M100 at Cascade AIDS Project, 1104 Main St. (Amanda 360-693-1188.) (6/01)

Willamette Valley: Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth Group for ages 13 to 18 offers support, information and fun. Free, confidential, drop-in. (4-6 pm Friday, Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., Eugene. 541-684-3466.) (6/01)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Group for ages 25 and younger meets every Monday. (5 pm, Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St., Eugene. 541-346-1134.) (6/01)

Rainbow Youth is a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and their friends between 13 and 17 years old in the Salem-Keizer area. (503-581-5535.) (11/01)

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday, 503-281-0722.) (11/01)

Bridgeport Community Church (UCC) is a growing community of progressive, political people exploring and celebrating the Christian faith. We are multicultural, lesbian, gay, bi and straight, and our children are valued members. (10:30 am Sunday, 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-258-0992.) (6/01)

Community of St. Andrew invites all to join a diverse Catholic faith community for prayer and fellowship. (9:30 am Sunday, 806 NE Alberta St. 503-281-4429.) (11/01)

Dignity Portland meets for Mass Sundays at 4 pm at St. Stephens Episcopal Church followed by a social. (Southwest 13th Avenue at Clay Street. dignitypd@aol.com.) (6/01)

DirECTIONS NorthWest (ECWR) supports GLBT Christians integrate faith and sexuality through scripture and fellowship. (PO Box 86383, Portland, OR 97286-0383, communities.msn.com/directionnorthwesthomepage.) (6/01)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, a welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service and children's religious education at 10:30 am. (1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628, eastrose@teleport.com.) (11/01)

Estacada United Methodist Church Reconciling Congregation, where we really mean everyone is welcome. Sunday worship at 10:30 am. (204 SE Main St., Estacada.) (6/01)

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.) (11/01)

First United Methodist Church of Portland, a welcoming and reconciling congregation, believes no one is left out in God's family. GLBT potlucks are held monthly. (10:30 am Sunday, 1838 SW Jefferson St. 503-228-3195, www.fumcpdx.org.) (11/01)

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.) (6/01)

The God Connection Center for Worship, Growth and Leadership invites you to celebrate your spirituality with the Revs. Casey and Berdell Moffett-Chaney. Liberal, practical; all are welcome. (10 am Sunday, 4828 NE 33rd Ave. 503-481-7591.) (11/01)

Grace Space, a multidenominational spiritual center led by the Rev. Stephanie Torres, holds Sunday evening celebrations. (5 pm, Friends of Multnomah, 4312 SE Stark St. 503-287-3216.) (11/01)

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.) (11/01)

Interfaith Spiritual Center. Spiritual directors from various world religious traditions are available for guidance, classes and retreats. (Second Floor, 3910 SE 11th Ave. 503-233-2026, ext. 3, www.spiritone.com/~isc. (11/01)

Compassionate Heart Sangha, a lesbian and gay meditation group, meets in the Buddhist Vipassana tradition. (7:30-9 pm Wednesday, Flanders House, 2926 NE Flanders St. Jon 503-239-5539.) (11/01)

Lilith's Daughters is a place for goddesses, witches and wisdom women. Beginning group to travel through Starhawk's book *Twelve Wild Swans*. Meets second and fourth Fridays in Beaverton. (Grace Young 503-643-3209.) (11/01)

Lincoln Street United Methodist Church is an open and accepting congregation of progressive Christians. (9 am Sunday, 5145 SE Lincoln St. 503-231-1930.) (11/01)

Metanoia Peace Community (United Methodist) is a "house church," bringing gay and straight together. (Daily prayer 7:20 am, Sunday gathering 6 pm, 2116 NE 18th Ave. 503-281-3697, www.tearsoup.com/metanoia.) (11/01)

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, info@mccportland.com.) (11/01)

Potter's House Ministries Life Center. Evangelical and charismatic Christian. (3830 SE 62nd Ave. 503-775-5024.) (6/01)

SisterSpirit offers women's spirituality celebrations, discussion groups, a drumming circle, workshops and classes. Schedule of events available. All women are welcome. (Suite 102, 3430 SE Belmont St. Mailing address: PO Box 9246, Portland, OR 97207, 503-736-3297, sistersp@teleport.com.) (11/01)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is a challenging, supportive community that welcomes all people. It is the first More Light Presbyterian Church in Oregon. (10 am Sunday summer, 9:30 and 11 am Sunday winter, 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073.) (6/01)

St. James Lutheran Church, a reconciled in

Christ congregation, welcomes all people for traditional liturgical worship. (9 and 11 am Sunday, 1315 SW Park Ave. 503-227-2439.) (11/01)

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church offers a gay-positive community for Catholics and their friends. Mass at 7:30 pm Fridays followed by a social. (Paulist Center, 2408 SE 16th Ave. 503-231-4955.) (11/01)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has been welcoming all people since 1863. (12:10 pm Wednesday and 7:45 and 10 am Sunday, Sunday school and child care at 10 am, Southwest 13th Avenue at Clay Street, 503-223-6424.) (11/01)

Unity Church of Portland is an all-inclusive community following Christ's teachings and celebrating diversity and truth without trappings for 75 years. Sunday school and child care available. Potluck first Sundays. (10 am Sunday, 4525 SE Stark St. 503-234-7441, unityprtd@wwdb.org.) (11/01)

University Park United Methodist Church is a member of the network of reconciling congregations and meets for worship at 10 am Sundays. (4775 N Lombard St. 503-289-7843.) (11/01)

Zion United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, is open to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual people who wish to worship in a Christ-centered, warm, caring, multiage/race/cultural faith community. (11 am Sunday, 2025 NE 23rd Ave., Gresham. 503-665-8741.) (6/01)

Washington: Spirituality

East Vancouver United Methodist Church. Reconciling, welcoming. (10 am Sunday, 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761, ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273.) (6/01)

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.) (6/01)

Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd. (10 am Sunday, 913 W. 13th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1480.) (6/01)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a home for the liberal religious spirit. (9:15 and 11 am Sunday, 4505 E. 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.) (6/01)

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 Sunday, 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.) (6/01)

The **Gay-Straight Alliance of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation** of Salem meets for a potluck on the third Sunday of each month. (6 pm, 5090 Center St. NE. 503-363-8716.) (6/01)

Interfaith Spiritual Community meets for inspirational messages, children's celebrations and joy every Sunday at the Heart Center. 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.) (6/01)

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 Sunday, 3674 12th St. SE, Salem. 503-364-5013.) (6/01)

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. (American Legion Hall, 4774 Lilac Lane NE, Salem. Mailing address: Pastor Ken Kerr, PO Box 12753, Salem, OR 97309. 503-315-7923.) (6/01)

Popular singer Ajay fronts a new band called Embra on June 1 at Conan's Pub

