

ADVICE

# Like a virgin

Why would a dyke want to give up her Gold Star status?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I am a 19-year-old single lesbian with a problem. I believe in experiencing life to the fullest, and I want to have sex with a man.

I have asked my best straight guy friend to sleep with me for one night. He knows I am a dyke and do not want a sexual relationship with him. He is happy to help me on a one-time basis.

The problem is my father. Dad, who raised me alone after Mom died, is one of those PFLAG activists like Michael's mother on *Queer as Folk* but worse.

I am sometimes embarrassed and wish he would chill. But basically his support has helped me be proud of who I am, and usually I appreciate him and his enthusiasm.

Except now. He is trying to interfere with my plan to lose my heterosexual virginity.

He tells me there is no reason for a lesbian who is secure about her homosexuality to have sex with any man, even once. He suspects my guy friend is in love with me and wants to convince me to go straight.

He says I am being manipulated by the guy and confused by the heterosexual world in general. He worries I might start dating men, fall in love, waste time, miss opportunities for finding a good lesbian partner, lose my gay identity, go straight, get pregnant, whatever. I think that's all nonsense.

But should I ditch my plan? If not, what should I do about Dad?

—Virginity Sucks

DEAR VIRGINITY SUCKS:

Why is your hip, supportive father involved in your sexual plans? Most 19-year-olds are at a developmental stage where they want and deserve privacy.

Did you come home late one night and confess over milk and cookies your desire to have sex with a dude? If you invited Daddy into discussions of your deflowering, now you'll have to find a diplomatic way to tell him to butt out.

Otherwise, be prepared to endure his advice about everything from your outfit to your method of birth control. Creepy.

It's OK to experiment with straight sex if you really want to. But if you plan to fornicate because you feel uncool, Ms. Behavior urges you to reconsider.

Lesbians are virgins when they haven't had sex with other women, not men. If your so-called virginity feels like an albatross to you now, it might be because you confuse heterosexual intercourse with sophistication.

If in the end you decide never to



Ms. Behavior

have sex with a man, you can look forward to a long, happy life of being worshipped as a Gold Star Lesbian by countless dykes who regret having sullied their Sapphic purity with meaningless penile contact.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Last year I became depressed and sought the help of a psychiatrist, who prescribed antidepressants. I

started on a low dose and moved up to a moderate one.

The pills have helped a lot, and I no longer wake up feeling dread. The problem is this medication obscures my sex drive, to the point where I'd rather do laundry or wash the kitchen floor than make love with my girlfriend.

Then, on those rare occasions when we do have sex, it's nearly impossible for me to have an orgasm. My

girlfriend was patient for a few months, but now she's

over it. She wants me to resume the lower dose of the medication because on that dose I still had sexual desire.

The psychiatrist initially said I probably could cut back at some point. I

don't want to do it now because I think my girlfriend is being selfish and unreasonable. Shouldn't my mental health be more important than her sexual desires?

—Little Libido

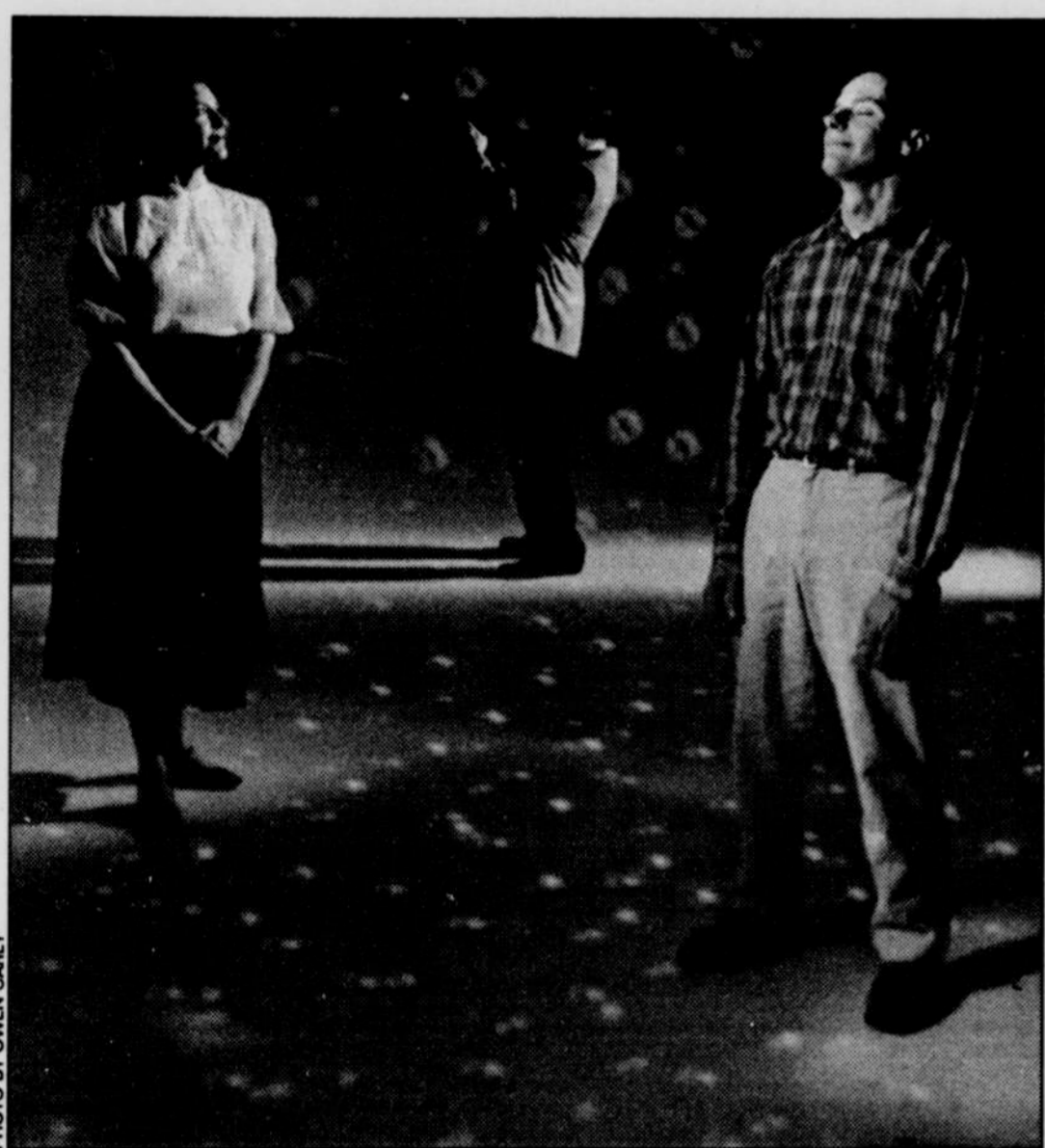
DEAR LITTLE LIBIDO:

It's a mistake to pit your mental health against your girlfriend's sexual desires, as if you only can attend to one or the other. Although depression can be a serious illness requiring medication and/or therapy, treatment doesn't have to squash your libido like a bug. Some newer medications have fewer sexual side effects, so you can have a cheerful mood and lots of raucous lesbian sex all in the same day. Your girlfriend's desire to make love with you does not mean she is indifferent to your happiness. Don't try to make her prove she loves you by asking her to settle for infrequent, disengaged sex.

Talk to your shrink about cutting back the medication or trying a different drug. Think of it as an experiment; if you feel uncomfortable, you can return to your current regimen.

Maybe your girlfriend will have fewer clean shirts and the kitchen floor will be sticky, but once your medication is adjusted, you'll remember just how delightful sexual passion can be. ☐

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



Side Man extends its run at Artists Repertory Theatre through July 8

**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.) (11/01)

**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. dignitypdx@aol.com.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

**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 multidominational 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. 503-239-5539.) (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.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

**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, SW 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, unityprtind@web.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.) (11/01)

## Washington: Spirituality

**East Vancouver United Methodist Church**. Reconciling, welcoming. (10 am Sunday, 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761, ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

**Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd**. (10 am Sunday, 913 W. 13th St. Vancouver, 360-695-1480.) (11/01)

**Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**, a home for the liberal religious spirit. (10 am Sunday, 4505 E. 18th St., Vancouver, 360-695-1891.) (11/01)

## 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.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

## YOUTH

### Metro: Youth

**Expression** is a free art/expression support group for GLBT youth between 13 and 23 in Gresham. Hang out and have fun every Friday! Sponsored by Roots and Branches. (Jonathan 503-872-9664, ext. 28.) (11/01)

**Outside In** operates a clinic for anyone who can't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan as well as a needle exchange service that includes exchange for those who inject hormones. 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.) (11/01)

**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, molly@prideproject.org.) (11/01)

**Rainbow** is a multicultural peer support and activity group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and questioning youth. (4:30 pm Wednesday, 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)

**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.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

### Southern Oregon: Youth

**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.) (11/01)

### 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.) (11/01)

### 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.) (11/01)

**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.) (11/01)

**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)

PHOTO BY OWEN CAREY