

ADVICE

# Communication breakdown

Smitten guy says one thing, insecure boyfriend hears another

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Help! My boyfriend has a significant hearing problem that's affecting our relationship, which is otherwise stable and loving.

Here's what I mean. I say, "I can't wait to be with you this weekend." Rodrigo hears: "I can't see you Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Well, I probably could see you if I wanted to, but I don't want to. In fact, I hate you."

I say: "Honey, you are the best man I ever have been with. Let's be together always." Rodrigo hears, "I'm settling for you because I've used up my energy on thousands of men who are far more exciting than you are."

The thing is, my boyfriend and his low self-esteem have been in therapy for several years. He's a wonderful man, but sometimes I feel like I ought to follow his therapist home and give her a good shaking.

I mean, what's the deal? Any guy would kill to have him as a boyfriend, and everyone knows it but him. Do you have suggestions for a new kind of hearing aid?

DEAR LARRY:

It's hard to tell whether your boyfriend needs a hearing aid or you need speech therapy. Ms. Behavior suspects your one-sided "he said, he said" conflict leaves out Rodrigo's version of the story, which might sound more like this:

Larry says: "Oh, I remember that shirt. It used to look really great on you before you gained all that weight around your waistline." Larry thinks he said, "That shirt looks good on you." Then you act shocked when you realize Rodrigo feels hurt (your clue is that he's crying into a box of doughnuts), and you deny his reality.

Rodrigo might be insecure, as you suggest, but it's also possible you're an insensitive clod. Either way, despite your declarations of love in this advice column, verbal communication between the two of you clearly has gone awry.

Maybe you should explore alternate forms of expression: Consider doing a performance piece about



Ms. Behavior

your love. Take a mime class to learn gestures and facial expressions for illustrating your devotion. Or if you're into something more primitive, try wrapping your boyfriend in a fuzzy blanket and rocking him while cooing softly in his ear.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR: My former best friend and my former

lover have formed some kind of psycho bond recently, a support group for the mean and stingy.

Frankly, I'd gotten pretty fed up with both of them: One is a consummate liar and a cheat, and the other is insufferably self-centered and ungenerous. With the help of my loving friends and my therapist, I've vowed to stay away from both of them.

Getting out of their clutches was difficult for me because I

used to be a pushover. I've vowed to spend time only with people who are genuine and kind and have a moral clue. But what do I do with my feelings of betrayal?

—Former Doormat

DEAR FORMER DOORMAT:

If you "used to be a pushover," you might need to cultivate the Angry Dyke within. You'll need a pair of heavy boots in

which to practice stomping around in silent rage.

At the same time, learn to meditate. Train your mind to focus on peaceful, loving thoughts.

If you can learn to feel both fierce and calm, you will be the Sapphic Dalai Lama, inspiring happy thoughts and spreading love and light throughout the universe. The universe, by the way, is perfect in its self-regulation; the planets have aligned to bring your ex and your former friend together.

You couldn't possibly concoct a more suitable means of justice than what these two will inflict on one another. So just accept the gift you've been given and remember to say thank you. ☐

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

potlucks and discussion of books touching on the lesbian, gay or bisexual experience. (Cary 503-363-6036. marionberysalon@aol.com.) (11/01)

**The Lesbian Connection (TLC) Lunch Bunch** meets 11 am Sundays at the French Horn and 5-8 pm on the second Friday of the month at the Fifth Street Market food court in Eugene. All women welcome. (Bonnie 541-683-2793.) (11/01)

The **Lesbian Sewing and Project Group**, a fun social organization, meets in Corvallis. (Joan 541-928-5745.) (11/01)

The **Lesbian Social Group** meets in Eugene to eat, talk, laugh and work on projects ranging from sewing to artwork to photo albums. (541-513-2754.) (11/01)

## SPIRITUALITY

### Metro: Spirituality

**Ainsworth United Church of Christ** is a multi-racial, multicultural, open and affirming church. Sunday worship is at 10 am, and church school for children runs concurrently. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767. aucc@teleport.com.) (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.) (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. dignitypx@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

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)

**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.

**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

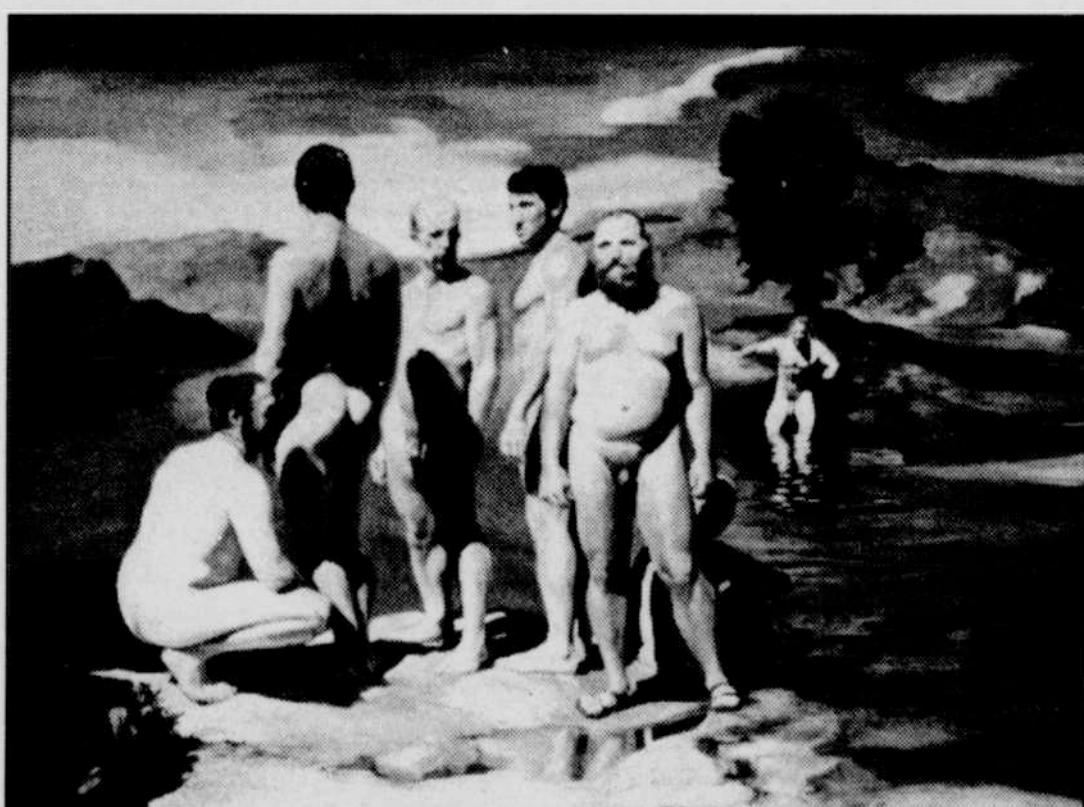
**Teen to Teen Sexual Minority Youth Program** offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi and trans and questioning youth in Vancouver, Wash. Meets 6-8 pm Tuesdays and 3:30-5:30 pm Thursdays in Suite M100 at Cascade AIDS Project, 1104 Main St. (Amanda 360-693-1188.) (11/01)

### 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)



Oil paintings by Jesse Geisheker are on view at 3 Friends Coffeeshouse, 201 SE 12th Ave., through July 31

everyone is welcome. Sunday worship at 10:30 am. (204 SE Main St., Estacada. 503-349-4245.) (11/01)

**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

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.) (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**