

ADVICE

Life's a bitch

Puppy love doesn't extend to the doghouse

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I am dating a wonderful man. Ken is cute, kind and a sexual genius.

The problem is my poodle doesn't like his bulldog. This might seem insignificant to most, but Amber is a central part of my life, and the fact that she growls, snarls and bares her teeth every time Sissy enters the yard is very distressing to me.

Even worse, Ken

gets extremely anxious and hysterical and acts like Amber is trying to kill Sissy. He gets annoyed because I don't freak out like he does or try to break up their scuffles.

I think dogs usually work these issues out by establishing dominance; in time, our pets will be happy together. However, Ken says he can't imagine going off into the sunset coupled happily but with an unhappy pooch.

What can I do? I really want things to work out with Sissy's father. (Did I mention he's a sexual genius?)

—Amber's Dad

DEAR AMBER'S DAD:

The person who calmly suggests dogs will resolve their conflicts by establishing dominance is always the owner of the fierce dog, not the one who's getting her ass kicked. Ken is more anxious than you are because Sissy is the underdog; if Amber were in danger of being filleted, you might feel more protective.

Amber probably feels threatened by the new drooly dog in her yard. (Poodles tend to be prissy about excessive saliva.) Unlike you, Amber doesn't have the lure of extra-smart deviant sex to balance her anxiety.

Still, you need to be firm about punishing bullying behavior. An experienced dog trainer can help a lot, especially if you and Amber practice between sessions.

If you attend to Ken's concerns responsibly, he'll trust you more in other ways, too. From now on, you must never tolerate any brattiness or aggression from Amber. Otherwise, Sissy and her dad probably won't attend the next meeting of Mensa's Frottage Triathlon.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My family thinks I'm a lesbian because I was molested when I was a child by a close family friend, whom my family still embraces, although he recently was brought up on charges of sexually abusing a minor. He's a well-known local politician, so the story of his arrest was in the newspaper.

My family insists my hatred for this man (I'll call him Dick) has

skewed my life and sexuality and turned me gay. Meanwhile, I'm forced to see Dick at every family event, which tortures me.

At a recent wedding, Dick tried to talk to me. I ignored him, so he actually had the nerve to whisper, "Those things you read about me in the newspaper aren't true." Could he have forgotten I am one

of the people he molested?

I'm very happy in my lesbian life. I'm in a long-term relationship with a wonderful person. I have a good job and am considered a success in my field.

I have felt like a lesbian from a very young age. I don't hate men; I just hate that particular man—the one who abused me and whom my family continues to love.

Now, my partner and I are planning our commitment ceremony, and my parents want me to invite this jerk. They're paying for our lovely expensive buffet, so they feel entitled to "help" with the guest list.

When I reminded my parents that Dick molested me, my mother said: "He's been through a lot lately. He needs extra love."

My girlfriend is furious at my parents. She wishes they weren't coming to the wedding. What should I do?

—Mary M.

DEAR MARY M.:
Your girlfriend has good reason to

be furious, especially because you're not angry enough. Your parents need to be slapped into reality.

They pathologize your lesbianism, suggesting sexual abuse caused it, but then express more concern for Dick the Pedophile than you. Some parents just eat their young.

If your parents think paying for food gives them the right to determine the guest list, cancel the fancy buffet and buy your own food. You'd be happier having Wendy's cater your wedding than enduring this guy's presence. Or if you're attached to the fancy buffet, you probably can finance it by selling your hideous story of molestation and parental betrayal to a confessional television talk show.

If your parents push the issue, tell them they're free to spend the day with Dick instead of attending your celebration. Then make sure to let him know that if he dares to show up you'll have the bandleader announce what he did to you and that you will call the press with details. [F]

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



Ms. Behavior

Dignity Portland meets for Mass on Sundays. (503-262-6947.) (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. 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

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@vwd.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)

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 Daily 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

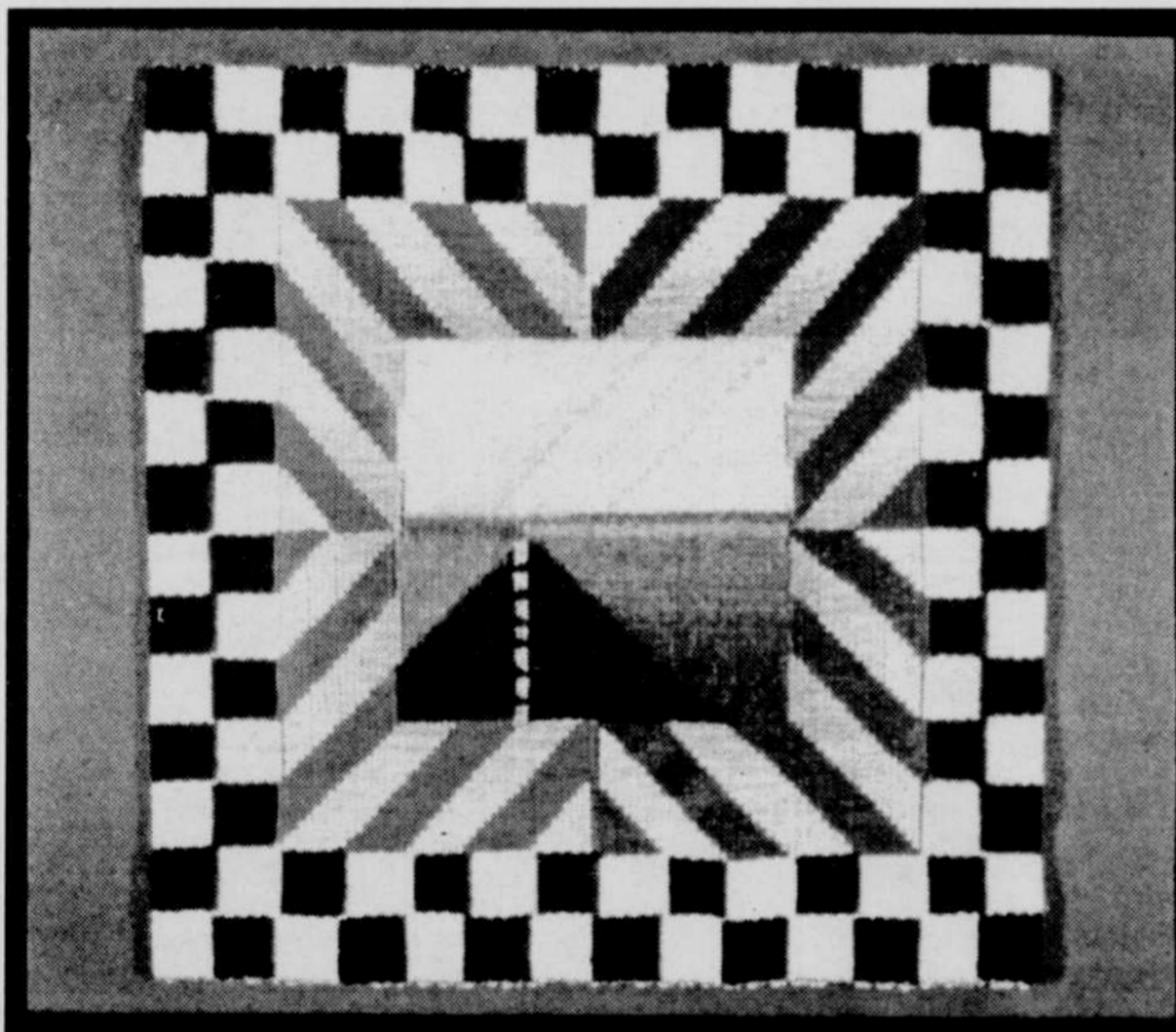
Teen to Teen Sexual Minority Youth Program offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi and trans and questioning youth in Vancouver, Wash. Meets 6-8 pm Tuesdays and 3:30-5:30 pm Thursdays in Suite M100 at Cascade AIDS Project, 1104 Main St. (Amanda 360-693-1188.) (11/01)

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)



"Journey" by Joyce Hayes is part of A Weaving Odyssey, a group show of tapestries on view at ONDA Studio and Gallery from Aug. 30 to Sept. 25

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. 503-286-9111. www.integrityusa.org.) (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)

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,

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 every Sunday; 6:30 pm second and last Sunday. 2200 Broadway. Sye. E/F. Vancouver. 360-695-1480. mccgs@aol.com www.mccgs.org.) (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