

ADVICE

A mother of a problem

35-year-old guy needs to cut the cord

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I am 42 and have been dating an adorable, intelligent 35-year-old man named Evan for six months. We are in love but taking it slow because we both recently ended relationships.

We see each other once during the week and once on weekends. We only sleep together once a month, but we kiss and hold hands whenever we're together.

We recently decided to spend an entire weekend together once a month so we can share more intimacy. You probably are thinking, "OK, so?"

Well, here's the clincher: Evan moved in with his mother after his last relationship ended, and she is becoming an obstacle. Ruth is a lovely woman but sometimes makes him feel guilty about seeing me.

Evan never came out to his mother, so a lot of miscommunication goes on. Ruth asks him strange questions and makes him feel funny. He is too afraid to say he is gay even though I suggested it would help.

Evan thinks

his mother knows but is in denial; I agree. I recently lent

Evan my Judy Garland CDs, and he dusted and cleaned the house

while lip-synching to "Get Happy" right in front of Ruth. She is asexual and seems to think we are, too.

I am really frustrated about this. I have told Evan to say he is doing things with other friends so Ruth will hold her tongue, but he doesn't want to lie.

We want to spend more time together, but Ruth's presence in Evan's life is making it difficult for him to be independent. What's your advice?

—Ready to Throw Momma from the Train

DEAR READY TO THROW MOMMA FROM THE TRAIN:

You're focused on the fire in the ashtray while the house burns down. Yes, it's worrisome that Evan isn't out to his mother, but it's far more alarming that he's 35 years old and lives with her. Hello?

Your weekly hand-holding and kissing sessions sound sweet. But in the context of Evan's marriage to Mommy, you might delude yourselves into thinking you're "taking it slow" when actually you're being forced into adolescent semicelibacy.

If Evan doesn't come out to Ruth directly, she'll become a growing thorn in your relationship. Tell him not to rely on a song this time, unless he plans to wear a designer loincloth and



Ms. Behavior

sing "It's Raining Men" with a gaggle of similarly clad nannies.

Talk with Evan about the benefits of living alone. Help him envision a better future, when you can stop acting like nervous breeders hovering over a fertility calendar and have spontaneous naked sleepover dates instead. Raucous, impulsive sex might sound dangerous, but you'd probably actually enjoy fucking yourselves into delirium.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

After the most difficult summer of my life, which began with the death of my beloved brother and concluded with the demise of my 17-year relationship, I am newly single in my mid-30s.

I recently met a woman who is interested in me. I enjoy her company, but I'm not ready for a relationship. I'm not even sure I'm ready to date.

This woman says she understands where I'm coming from, but her actions indicate otherwise. When I see her, she presses me to go out with her and tries to be inappropriately intimate.

I'd like to be friends, but she's making me uncomfortable. How can I tell her she's crossing a line and still keep the door open for friendship?

—G.

DEAR G:

Your method of notifying your friend that she's crossing a line should be relative to her level of intrusion. If she merely sits too close to you on the couch, let her know with body language—e.g., by leaning away from her as if you're being blown by a windstorm.

But if by "inappropriately intimate" you mean she inserts her tongue in your mouth while you're talking, you'll need to say something more direct. Like, "Hey, stop."

Maybe she feels too attracted to you to be just friends, at least for now. If you're worrying about how to fend her off while she's getting all juiced up at the sight of you, a lighthearted afternoon movie probably won't work.

But give serious consideration as to whether your signals to her are clear. If you're interested in friendship and worried about scaring her away, you might unconsciously put out little hooks to keep her engaged.

Go easy on yourself. You've had a dreadful year. Part of dating is learning how to say "no" convincingly. But since your last dating experience may have occurred during, say, 11th grade lacrosse practice (17 years ago), your technique might be rusty. The good news is that once you're able to say "no" proficiently, "yes" comes a lot more easily. ☐

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

concurrently. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767. aucc@teleport.com.) (5/02)

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday. 503-281-0722.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Dignity Portland meets for Mass on Sundays. (503-262-6947.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

First Unitarian Church of Portland is an open and affirming liberal religious community. We offer a wide range of programs to nurture spiritual growth and community. Our Sunday services are at 9 and 10:45 am. (1011 SW 12th Ave. 503-228-6389. www.firstunitarianportland.org.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Grace Space, a multidimensional spiritual center led by the Rev. Stephanie Torres, holds Sunday evening celebrations. (5 pm Friends of Multnomah, 4312 SE Stark St. 503-287-3216.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Lincoln Street United Methodist Church is an open and accepting congregation of progressive Christians. (9 am Sunday. 5145 SE Lincoln St. 503-231-1930.) (5/02)

Metanoia Peace Community (United Methodist) is a "house church," bringing gay and straight together. (Daily prayer 7:20 am, Sunday gathering 5 pm. 2116 NE 18th Ave. 503-281-3697. www.tearsoup.com/metanoia.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Portland Center for Spiritual Growth invites you to celebrate your spirituality with the Revs. Casey and Berdell Moffett-Chaney. Liberal, practical, all are welcome. (10:30 am Sunday. 4828 NE 33rd Ave. 503-481-7591.) (5/02)

Portland Radical Faeries meet twice a month with potlucks and circles at the full moon and the new moon. Open to all men seeking alternative spiritual growth and community. Coffee hours start 9:30 am Saturdays at 3 Friends Coffeehouse, 201 SE 12th Ave. (503-235-0826. otter@pccz.com.) (5/02)

Potter's House Ministries is an open, affirming, bible-exploring congregation with specific outreach in the gay and lesbian community. (10:45 am Sunday. 3830 SE 62nd Ave. 503-775-5024.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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. unityprtnd@wwdb.org.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Waverly Heights Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming community with worship, children's school and child care. (11 am Sunday. 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-238-1337. www.waverlyucc.org.) (5/02)

Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a new, open and liberal religious community on the inner east side of Portland offering intergenerational services and religious education for children. It welcomes members of the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community. Wy'east nurtures spiritual growth and promotes living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (4 pm Sunday. 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3704. www.wy'east.pnwduua.org.) (5/02)

Zion United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, is open to gay, lesbian, bi, trans 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.) (5/02)

Washington: Spirituality

East Vancouver United Methodist Church, Reconciling, welcoming. (10 am Sunday. 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761. ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273.) (5/02)

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. vanucc@aol.com.) (5/02)

Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd, (10 am every Sunday; 6:30 pm second and last Sunday. Suite E/F, 2200 Broadway, Vancouver. 360-695-1480. mccgs@aol.com www.mccgs.org.) (5/02)

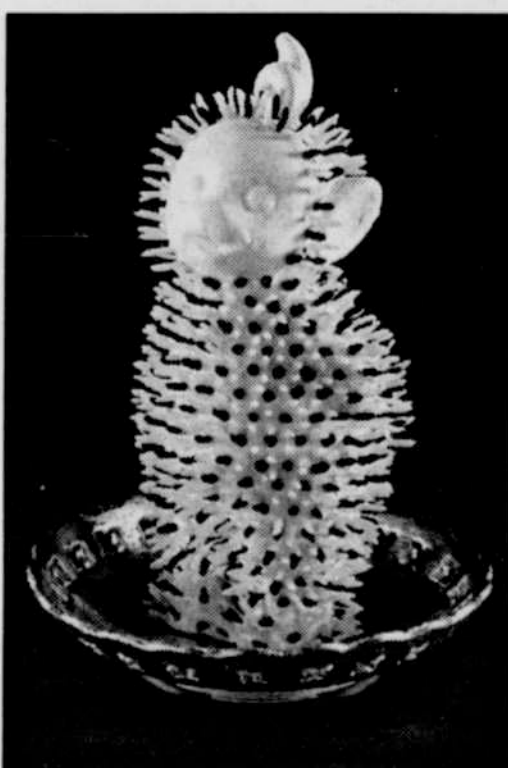
Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a home for the liberal religious spirit. (10 am Sunday. 4505 E 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an inclusive Christian community, an open and affirming church. (9:30 am Sunday summer, 10:30 am Sunday winter. 4515 SW West Hills Road, Corvallis. 541-757-8122.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)



You can find "Laa-Laa with Rice" by queer artist Horatio Hung-Yan Law at Elizabeth Leach Gallery

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Clackamas County Youth Pride provides opportunities for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning people 23 and younger to get together for free, fun and supportive social activities. Also one-on-one support, advocacy, information and referrals for Clackamas County service providers. (503-969-0060. youth_pride@hotmail.com.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network fights to end anti-gay bias in K-12 schools. (12700 SW North Dakota St., Suite 180, #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177 or 503-936-5614. glsenor@aol.com.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Rainbow is a multicultural peer support and activity group for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth. (4:30 pm Wednesday. Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Southern Oregon: Youth

Southern Oregon Youth Outreach (SOYO), a group for gay, lesbian, bi and youth between 14 and 20, meets on the first and Thursdays of the month in Ashland. (541-488-6990.) (5/02)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi and trans and questioning youth in Vancouver, Wash. Meets 6-8 pm Tuesdays in the basement of Youth House, 1112 Columbia St. in Vancouver. (John 360-695-1325.) (5/02)

Willamette Valley: Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth Group for ages 13 to 18 offers support, information and fun. Free, confidential, adult-facilitated. (Drop in 4-6 pm Friday. Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., Eugene. 541-684-3466.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

Rainbow Youth is a support group for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth and their friends between 13 and 17 years old in the Salem-Keizer area. (503-581-5535.) (5/02)