

ADVICE

The fear factor

Should an HIV-phobe be educated—or dumped?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I wrote to you last year, and your advice was very helpful.

For the past few months, I've pursued a woman I am attracted to and like very much. After we hooked up, an unanticipated problem arose.

Previously, I was with someone for five years who was diagnosed with HIV three years into our relationship. I haven't been with her for two years.

When I told this new woman about it, she automatically judged me. She accused me of having AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

I hadn't felt it was relevant to tell her about my past before we had a sexual encounter because I repeatedly have tested negative for HIV and STDs. I am aware AIDS is a sensitive issue and have a lot of knowledge pertaining to the disease. I don't believe she does—because of how she reacted.

Should I be judged because I was in a relationship with a woman who was HIV-positive? Can someone say "no" to me regarding sexual relations because of that? Even if I have proof showing I'm negative for HIV and STDs? What if this woman could be my soulmate?

—Disappointed and Hurt, Yet Trying to Understand

DEAR DISAPPOINTED ETC.:

No, you shouldn't be judged because you were with a woman who was HIV-positive. But yes, someone can reject you for that or any other reason, and it doesn't have to be politically correct or rational; that's just how it is with sex and love.

Some people who are phobic about HIV can be educated. But when you're romantically interested in someone, the role of educator is not a fun one. You can state the facts about transmission, but you wouldn't want to feel like you were persuading her to have sex with you.

Remember, an aversion can be very powerful. Some lesbians would not have sex with you because you ate meat in 1989, had sex with a man sometime in your past or once used a public restroom. Others would feel safe only if you allowed them to boil you first.

When you meet a woman who feels that way, do not try to change her mind. Let the differences between you stand as a symbol for all the ways you're not compatible and head for the door.

As for the soulmate issue, you don't have to worry. If you meet a woman who does not urgently want



Ms. Behavior

to devour you (at least for the first six months), she is not your soulmate.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I met this guy, Chip, at my best friend Joe's sex party. It was my first time at one of these sex/drug bashes, and it was indeed wild—K and Liquid Crystal and everyone walking around naked.

It was supposed to be a fisting party, but everyone got wasted and only a few people actually got down to it—one of them was Chip. The rest of us watched him take it up the ass; it was stimulating, to say the least.

When it was over and we just were chilling out, I talked to Chip and really got to know him. We spent a lot of time talking and connecting; we didn't have any sexual contact at all.

The next afternoon while everyone got ready to leave, Chip shyly came over and gave me a piece of paper with his number on it.

Joe thinks I'm crazy. He says Chip is a hustler and was practically the paid entertainment at his party. When I asked

Joe if he actually hired Chip to be fisted, he said he didn't.

He said Chip showed up with some guy with a mean crack addiction who turns tricks for money. He says Chip is likely to have a similar lifestyle, although Chip told me he works in a camera shop and wants to be a photographer.

Should I call him?

—Love in All the Wrong Places

DEAR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES:

Some people who like to be the center of attention at a sex party are very nice people. Chip might be one of them.

However, if you call Chip with the intention of dating him, don't envision quiet nights at home playing Scrabble and eating chicken pot pies. Envision yourself with him at a party. Imagine yourself standing by the drinks watching your boyfriend assume the same "stimulating" position while everyone dips into the Chip bowl.

If you do call, remember that people rarely change. Ms. Behavior emphasizes this now because she does not want to receive a letter in two years about how you fell in love with the fisteer at a sex party and now you're miserable because he hasn't developed any new hobbies. ☐

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

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 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.) (5/02)

Integrity, the gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal Church, meets every second Friday of the 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 reconciling 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. unityprtd@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)

Wyeast Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a new, open and liberal religious community offering

intergenerational services and religious education for children. It welcomes members of the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community. Nurtures spiritual growth and promotes living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (4 pm Sunday. 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3704. www.wyeast.pnwd.uua.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

Abundant Life Center, A New Thought Community for spiritual awakening, transforming lives through love. A safe place where children learn to embody spiritual principles. (10:30 am Sunday. 10009 NE Ninth Ave., Vancouver. 360-573-2626.) (5/02)

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)

God's Holy Territory, A spirit-filled worship experience, seeking God for holiness and wholeness. For gay, lesbian, bi, trans and straight. Everyone welcome! (11 am Sunday, 7 pm Wednesday Bible study and prayer. 7807 NE 30th St., Vancouver. 360-885-9461. gmbear68@netzero.net.) (5/02)



Bonnie Lee attempts to share the soul of the Argentine tango in her mixed-media work Feb. 28-March 26 at ONDA Studio

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)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

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.) (5/02)

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Clackamas County Youth Pride provides oppor-

tunities 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 those who inject hormones. Can provide transitional housing for youth 20 and younger as well as for those 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)

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.) (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.