

ADVICE

Lust and tension

Girl needs to get it; boys need to get a grip



Ms. Behavior

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:
During the eight years of a committed lesbian relationship, I socialized mostly with men, as I didn't trust myself to get too close to women. (I never cheated; I avoided temptation like the plague.)
Now that I am single, I guiltlessly enjoy the lovely company of women. The problem is I've become sexually attracted to these fine, straight friends. Add to it the hormones of a 30-something and a year without lovemaking, and I come precipitously close to losing my mind.

I'd love to add a physical component to our enjoyment of each other, but I'm not looking for a girlfriend. I don't want to trade my friendships for one passionate evening, perhaps followed by the other party considering herself a girlfriend, having to break up with her, then having to wait the requisite time to become friends again, if even allowed. (This is on the presumption that they would conveniently become bi-curious in my presence.)

How can I find out if they might be amenable to a passionate expression of my affection for them without causing offense or coming off as a presumptuous, sex-crazed hussy or louse? (Yes, I have a vibrator, but it knows nothing of caresses, affection or fondness.)

Should I just keep life simple (and dull!!) and stick to men and dead-end flirtations? Can you save me from going over the edge, or would a shove be in order?

P.S. Do you really look like your picture (an attractive female with an up-do), or are you one of those men who is able to look more feminine than a natural-born woman?

—Perpetually Frustrated,
Loca with Lust

DEAR PERPETUALLY FRUSTRATED,
LOCA WITH LUST:

You haven't mentioned how many of your straight friends you'd like to fondle, although your use of the plural pronoun "they" implies more than one.

So, is it two out of six? Three out of four? Ms. Behavior recommends you choose carefully and don't sully them all. Having your way with all your friends might create discord in your social circle and prompt otherwise courteous people to call you names—like "opportunistic slut"—even if only out of jealousy or insecurity.

As you already know, straight girls do sometimes fall for lesbians, even when lesbians go to great lengths to clarify their nonromantic intentions. The last person with whom a straight woman has been intimate is most likely a straight man. This is hardly fair competition for lesbians, who are far more practiced than straight men in both emotional expression and cunnilingus.

Your "passionate expression of affection" might easily be confused with love; plus, lesbians exude pheromones that reduce inhibitions in

heterosexual women. As a result, grateful straight women often become lesbian cling-ons, failing to accept that with the social and economic advantages of heterosexuality they're also assigned somewhat mediocre sex.

Instead of risking your straight-girl friendships, why not find a fun, sex-positive lesbian (or several) with whom to enjoy erotic pleasure? Despite the rumor about lesbians and their U-Hauls, Ms. Behavior gets truckloads of letters from dykes who long for passionate sex without commitment but never meet like-minded women.

Should Ms. Behavior start a fuck-buddy dating service for lesbians?

P.S. Ms. Behavior has always been female but does not dress formally every day. The up-do was the creation of a homosexual stylist who was obsessed with Holly-Go-Lightly; Ms. Behavior is rarely tempted to reconstruct it.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My boyfriend and I fight every time someone asks us how long we've been together. I say it's 14 years, and he says it's 10.

We broke up for two years (mostly my idea) early in our relationship. Brad not only refuses to count our separation, he also won't count the two years before the breakup (because he says our relationship wasn't "strong" back then).

I think it all counts. He's my soul mate, and, once we met, I never stopped loving him, even when we were apart.

He still gets angry when we discuss it, probably because I slept with seven or eight men during our separation. (He didn't have sex with anyone.)

We've agreed to let you settle it so we don't continue to fight about it. How long should we say we've been together?

—Brad's Boyfriend

DEAR BRAD'S BOYFRIEND:

Ten years.
Ms. Behavior uses this simple formula for all breakup questions, even if the couple eventually get back together:

The one who is left behind gets to keep the furniture. The one who is left behind gets to suffer and act offended three times longer than the partner who left. This includes crying in the supermarket for no apparent reason for a period of six months for each year the couple were together.

The one who is left behind gets to decide when things started or ended. ☐

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MERYL COHN is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Her Internet site is www.msbehavior.com. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.

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.) (11/02)

Faith United Methodist Church is a welcoming community of Christians in Troutdale that values and encourages all people in finding a place of belonging in the family of God. Sunday worship at 10:15 am; Adult Education at 9 am; children and youth at 10:30 am. Wednesday Prayers 6-6:30 pm. (27400 SE Stark St. 503-661-4520.) (11/02)

First Unitarian Church of Portland is an open and affirming liberal religious community offering a wide range of programs to nurture spiritual growth, community and social justice. Sunday service 10 am. (1011 SW 12th Ave. 503-228-6389. www.firstunitarianportland.org.) (11/02)

First United Methodist Church of Portland, a welcoming and reconciling congregation, believes no one is left out in God's family. Sexual minority potlucks held monthly. (10:30 am Sunday, 1838 SW Jefferson St. 503-228-3195. www.fumcpdx.org.) (11/02)

Grace Space is a New Thought spiritual center dedicated to offering ways to experience Spirit. Sunday evening celebrations with Rev. Stephanie Torres, Conscious Breathing experiences, Chanting, Healing Services, Meditation classes and a miracles study group. (5 pm. Bridgeport Community Church, 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-287-3216.) (11/02)

Integrity is a group of GLBT Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Bruce Mason, Regional Director, 503-286-9111 or brucepdxor@attbi.com. www.integrityusa.org.) (11/02)

Interfaith Spiritual Center. Spiritual directors from various world religious traditions are available for guidance.



Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center presents work from the Arts for New Immigrants program through Aug. 30

classes and retreats. (Second Floor, 3910 SE 11th Ave. 503-233-2026, ext. 3. www.interfaithspiritualcenter.com.) (11/02)

Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church 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.) (11/02)

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.) (11/02)

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.) (11/02)

Portland Church of Religious Science is a liberal, open, progressive New Thought community welcoming everyone to discover the spirit within. Change your thinking, change your life! (10 am Sunday meditation, 10:30 am service and junior church, 6:30 pm Wednesday prayer circle. 3983 NE 112th Ave. 503-261-0677.) (11/02)

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@pocz.com.) (11/02)

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.) (11/02)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is a challenging, supportive community that welcomes all people. It is the first More Light Presbyterian Church in Oregon. Sunday school and nursery care. (10 am Sunday, 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073. staff@southmin.com.) (11/02)

Gay and Lesbian Outreach (GALO) of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church celebrates an affirming Mass followed by a social. (7:30 pm Friday, Paulist Center, 2408 SE 16th Ave. 503-231-4955.) (11/02)

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.) (11/02)

Waverly Heights Church (UCC) is open and affirming with worship, children's school and child care. (10 am Sunday, 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-238-1337. www.waverlyucc.org.) (11/02)

Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an open and liberal religious community offering inter-generational services and religious education for children. It welcomes gay, lesbian, bi and trans members. Nurtures spiritual growth and promotes living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (4 pm Sunday, 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3704.

(11 am Sunday, 7 pm Thursday Bible study and prayer, 1500 NE 49th St., Vancouver. 360-885-9461. gmbear68@netzero.net.) (11/02)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a home for the liberal religious spirit. (10 am Sunday, 4505 E 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.) (11/02)

Willamette Valley: Spirituality

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation offering worship and church school. Child care provided and wheelchair accessible. (9 am Sunday learning hour, 10 am worship, 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.) (11/02)

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.) (11/02)

Sacred Souls honors all sacred paths, promotes peace and strives to create an environment that supports and promotes interfaith dialogue. Meets at the Oregon School of Massage. (6:30-8 pm Sunday, 440 Ferry St. SE, Salem. wholth@aol.com. www.sacredsouls.org.) (11/02)

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Flavors, a program of MultiQueer and Brother to Brother, is a social support group for sexual minority youth of color 24 and younger. Meets every other Sunday for food and socializing. Regular events and activities. (Des 503-228-3892 or des@lmfamily.org. Stephan 503-417-7991 or hey_stephan@hotmail.com.) (11/02)

The **Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)** fights to end anti-gay bias in K-12 schools. (12700 SW North Dakota St., Suite 180, #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177. glsen@glsenoregon.org. www.glsenoregon.org.) (11/02)

MultiQueer, a program of Love Makes a Family, provides advocacy to sexual minority youth. Offers resources and support in the community and the school systems, with a focus on support for youth of color. (Des 503-228-3892. des@lmfamily.org.) (11/02)

Outside In operates a clinic for anyone who can't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan as well as needle exchange services that include those who inject hormones. Can provide transitional housing for youth 20 and younger as well as for those HIV+ and younger than 23. Also plays host to **VOICES** (Voices of Individual and Community Empowerment from the Streets), a self-support group for queer youth. Needs volunteers of all ages. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday, 1132 SW 13th Ave. 503-535-3801. www.outsidein.org.) (11/02)

Vanguard Youth Services, a program of Cascadia Behavioral HealthCare, offers support and recreation to gay, lesbian, bi and trans kids 23 and younger. Programs include: **Clackamas County Sexual Minority Youth Connection (COSMYC)** provides opportunities for queer and questioning kids to get together for free, fun and supportive social activities. Also one-on-one support and referrals to Clackamas County service providers. (503-969-0060. cosmycyouth@yahoo.com.)

Expression is a free art/expression support group in Gresham for queer youth. Hang out and have fun every Friday! (Jonathan 503-872-9664, ext. 28.) **Pride Project** brings together Washington County queer and questioning youth to plan and attend monthly social events. Also information, referral and advocacy services in Washington County. (Molly 503-260-5792. molly@prideproject.org.) **Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center (SMYRC)** offers drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly youth support groups includes 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. TTY 503-231-9286. www.smyrc.org.) **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.) (11/02)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, 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.) (11/02)

Willamette Valley: Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Transgender and Questioning Youth Group for ages 13 to 18 offers support, information and fun in Eugene. Free, confidential, adult-facilitated. (Drop in 4-6 pm Friday, Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St. 541-684-3466.) (11/02)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Group for ages 25 and younger meets every Monday in Eugene. (5 pm. Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. 541-346-1134.) (11/02)