

ADVICE

# Soul snatcher

Lesbian steals girlfriend away to rural community



Ms. Behavior  
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My best friend, Emily, finally met the woman of her dreams, Patricia. I've met Patricia several times and have been shocked by her lack of charm.

I know it can be hard for someone new to be accepted in a social circle, so I've tried not to be judgmental, but Patricia is truly hard to like. She's gruff, self-centered and cheap.

When my partner and I went to visit them, Patricia totally controlled the conversation, the videos we rented, and what time each person could shower. It also became clear that she controls Emily, their mutual finances and even the food they eat. Emily no longer eats "dead animals" and won't

drink alcohol anymore. (She used to love lamb chops and martinis.)

Even worse, Emily is moving with Patricia to a rural lesbian community where they don't know anyone. The

new town is more affordable, according to Patricia, but I think she's taking Emily there so she can isolate her and keep her under control.

Should I say anything to Emily? I cannot bear the thought of her being trapped on a farm in a town where she doesn't know anyone with this big controlling loser.

—Emily's Last Hope

DEAR EMILY'S LAST HOPE:

You can try telling Emily how you feel, but she probably won't listen. If she's in love, it's like being under the influence of a powerful drug; you can't change someone's mind while she's still high.

Telling Emily that her new girlfriend is a controlling loser too many times—more than once or twice—might alienate her and make it hard for her to run back to your welcoming bosom once she realizes her soul has indeed been snatched.

Don't despair, though. People often freak out when they realize they've been controlled. Sometimes they escape from their bossy partners abruptly and unexpectedly.

Once the spell wears off (six months to two years, on average), Emily will probably find her way home to you and her beloved dead animals and martinis. Just make sure she stashes away enough money for bus fare before she leaves for the farm.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm a 27-year-old gay man, and I came out about six years ago. My

mother cried when I told her I was gay, which really hurt my feelings. But Mom went to therapy and quickly grew to accept me.

The problem is that now she has gone to another extreme: Every time she meets someone she thinks might be gay, she tells them about me and how much she loves and accepts me.

Last week, I got two phone calls because of my mother. One was from a man she met on a train. She thought he was cute and wanted to fix us up so he could help me decorate my apartment! (She said he was dressed nicely so she was sure he'd have good taste.) He sounded like a total freak, and I refused to meet him.

The second call was from Mom's new female haircutter, who happened to be wearing a Melissa Etheridge shirt when she cut my mother's hair. Of course, my mom asked if she was a lesbian and once the haircutter said yes, my mother gave her my phone number! I had nothing to say to this woman.

I appreciate that my mother is proud of me and that she is overcompensating because she feels guilty that she cried when I first told her. But I don't like getting e-mail and phone calls from strangers. How can I make my mother stop?

—Eric

DEAR ERIC:

Tell your mother that you appreciate her support but that giving out your number so freely leaves you open to being pursued by weirdoes, stalkers and people with bad taste in hair, art and theater.

Explain that despite the message transmitted by popular culture, not all gay men are sweet and kind decorators and not all lesbians are gentle folk singers. Send your mom newspaper clippings about serial killers who prey on innocent homosexuals whose mothers accept them. And try to resist the temptation to post her phone number on a lesbian Web site, just to show her what it's like out there. ☐

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[www.confluencechorus.org](http://www.confluencechorus.org) (11/02)

The **Eugene Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual 20s/30s Social Club** enjoys a weekly game night and brunch every Sunday at Brail's. (Brian 541-485-3437.) (11/02)

The **Lesbian Connection (TLC)** meets once a month for potlucks and other various fun activities in Eugene. All women welcome. (Bonnie 541-683-2793.) (11/02)

**Marionberry Salon** meets monthly in Salem for potlucks and discussion of books touching on the lesbian, gay or bi experience. (Cary 503-363-6036. [marionberry@aol.com](mailto:marionberry@aol.com).) (11/02)

**Team Oregon** organizes athletes to participate in the Gay Games Nov. 2-9, 2002, in Sydney, Australia. If you want to participate in the opening and closing events, you must be part of Team Oregon. ([www.teamoregonusa.com](http://www.teamoregonusa.com)) (11/02)

## SPIRITUALITY

### Metro: Spirituality

**Ainsworth United Church of Christ** is a multicultural, multicultural, open and affirming church. Sunday worship is at 10 am; church school for children runs concurrently. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767. [aucc@teleport.com](mailto:aucc@teleport.com).) (11/02)

**Anawim Community** of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday. 503-281-0722.) (11/02)

**Compassionate Heart Sangha** plays host to weekly sittings in the Vipassana Meditation Tradition at Flanders House. (7:30-9 pm Wednesday. 2926 NE Flanders St. Jon 503-239-5539.) (11/02)

**Congregation Neveh Shalom**, an open and progressive Conservative Jewish synagogue, extends a warm welcome to all sexual minorities. Shabbat services 8:15 pm Friday and 9 am Saturday. (2900 SW Peaceful Lane. 503-246-8831.) (11/02)

**Congregation P'nai Or** (Faces of Light) is a vibrant, egalitarian, Jewish Renewal congregation in Portland. Meets several times a month in various locations. (PO Box 42187, Portland, OR 97242-0187. 503-248-4500. [www.pnaiorpx.org](http://www.pnaiorpx.org).) (11/02)

**Dignity Portland** meets for Mass on Sundays. (503-262-6947.) (11/02)

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 [brucepdx@attbi.com](mailto:brucepdx@attbi.com). [www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org).) (11/02)

**Interfaith Spiritual Center** houses spiritual directors from various world religious traditions, who are available for guidance, classes and retreats. (Second Floor, 3910 SE 11th Ave. 503-233-2026. ext. 3. [www.interfaithspiritualcenter.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@mccportland.com).) (11/02)

**Portland Center for Spiritual Growth** in the Unity Church building invites you to celebrate your spirituality with the Revs. Casey and Berdell Moffett-Chaney. Liberal, practical; all are welcome. (5 pm Sunday service; 7:30-9 pm Monday Spiritual Principle Gab Group; 4-4:40 pm Sunday Rescuing the Bible from the Right Wing Discussion Group. 4525 SE Stark Ave. 503-777-0727.) (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@pccz.com](mailto:otter@pccz.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](mailto:sistersp@teleport.com).) (11/02)

**Spirit Circle** is for lesbian, bisexual or transgendered women seeking a welcoming community in the Catholic church. Meets every third Thursday in the Nativity School of St. Andrew's Church (7 pm. 806 NE Alberta St. [lbtspircircle@yahoo.com](mailto:lbtspircircle@yahoo.com).) (5/03)

**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](mailto:staff@southmin.com).) (11/02)

**St. Andrew Catholic Church** invites all to join a diverse faith community for prayer and fellowship. (9:30 am Sunday. 806 NE Alberta St. 503-281-4429.) (11/02)

**St. James Lutheran Church**, a Reconciled in Christ congregation, welcomes all people for traditional, liturgical worship where we experience God's reconciling love that sets all people free. (9 and 11 am Sunday. 1315 SW Park Ave. 503-227-2439.) (11/02)

**Gay and Lesbian Outreach (GALO)** of St. Philip Nen 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 wel-



The work of gay artist Mike Walsh is at Corvallis Arts Center through Oct. 30

coming 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](http://www.waverlyucc.org).) (11/02)

**Wyeast 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. [www.wyeast.pnwd.uua.org](http://www.wyeast.pnwd.uua.org).) (11/02)

**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.) (11/02)

### Washington: Spirituality

**Abundant Life Center** is a New Thought Community for spiritual awakening and transforming lives through love. A safe place where children learn to embody spiritual principles. (10 am Sunday. 10006 NE Ninth Ave., Vancouver. 360-573-2626.) (11/02)

**East Vancouver United Methodist Church** is reconciling and welcoming. (10 am Sunday. 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761. [ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273](http://ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273).) (11/02)

**First Congregational Church**, United Church of Christ, holds two Sunday services, traditional and "less traditional" in an open and affirming congregation.

(1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver. 360-693-1476. [vanucc@aol.com](mailto:vanucc@aol.com).) (11/02)

**God's Holy Territory** offers 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 Thursday Bible study and prayer. 1500 NE 49th St., Vancouver. 360-885-9461. [gmbear68@netzero.net](mailto: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](mailto:wholth@aol.com). [www.sacredsouls.org](http://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](mailto:des@lmfamily.org). Stephan 503-417-7991 or [hey\\_stephan@hotmail.com](mailto: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. [glse@glsenoregon.org](mailto:glse@glsenoregon.org). [www.glsenoregon.org](http://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](mailto: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. 503-535-3800. [www.outsidein.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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)

### Willamette Valley: Youth

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