

Marionberry Salon meets monthly in Salem for potlucks and discussion of books touching on the lesbian, gay or bi experience. (Cary 503-363-6036. marionberrysalon@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) (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.) (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.) (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. (10:30 am. 1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. eastrose@teleport.com.) (5/03)

the 11 am worship service. (2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868. 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 Christian 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. attter@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.) (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. lbspiritcircle@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.) (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 reconcil-

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.) (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.) (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. wholhth@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@imfamily.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@imfamily.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.) (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. cosmicyouth@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)

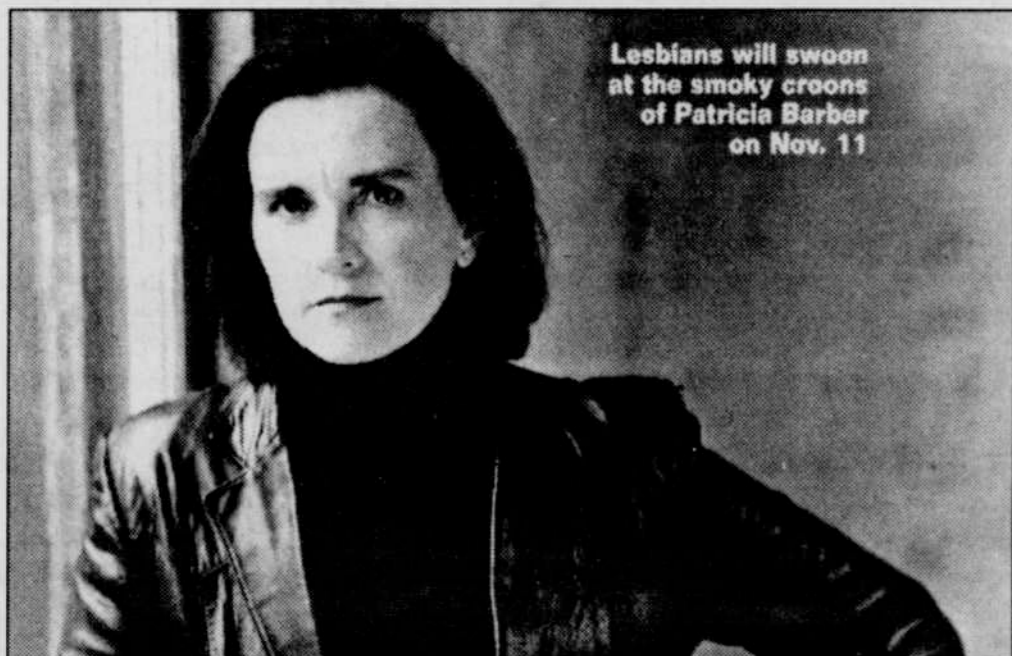
Washington: Youth

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. Kooinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. 541-346-1134.) (11/02)



Lesbians will swoon at the smoky croons of Patricia Barber on Nov. 11

PHOTO BY JIMMY KATZ

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.fumcpxd.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. Bndgeport 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 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.) (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

ing 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 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)

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.pnw.uaa.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/) (11/02)

ADVICE

Absolution

Sex pig seeks help after gas mask, saran wrap episode

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm not a proctologist (at least not by formal training), but as a gay man in my extremely early 40s, I've had many firsthand experiences with an amazing variety of assholes.

These "exams" have invariably delighted my graciously accommodating partners. However, a recent sexual episode has convinced me that I need the advice of someone who has her finger on the pulse of gay ethics and morals.

My quandary: Last week after immobilizing a very recent (instant) acquaintance with duct tape and clamping a gas mask over his face (not my scene, but I try to be accommodating), I noticed a strange irregularity in my trick's rectum—a ridged bump just beyond the prostate.

Mentioning this suspicious growth at the point of discovery would have ruined the atmosphere that the sling, mirrors, saran wrap, 50 feet of rope and three lengths of chain had taken several hours to create. (Honestly, these

days I sometimes feel more like a combination sailor, mechanic, fashion consultant and interior decorator than a sex pig.) I figured I could spill the beans after he spilled his load.

But after I managed to cut the duct tape off his torso, take the gas mask from his face and introduce myself, I had second thoughts about my diagnosis. I was honestly concerned for his health, but I am not a physician, and I didn't want to ruin the remnants of his summer vacation needlessly with anxious thoughts of colon cancer. I figured I'd have him jot down his e-mail address and perhaps suggest via the Internet that he make an appointment with a qualified physician in his hometown.

Unfortunately, I didn't notice the illegibility of his handwriting until mid-afternoon of the next day, three hours after his plane flew out of the local airport. (I think the cotton swabs dipped in head cleaner that he insisted I shove into the gas mask tube must have affected his motor skills.)

"Sex Pig Kevin in D.C." is vague search criteria even for Google, so I fear locating him may be as unlikely as G.W. Bush finding his ass with both hands. I'm worried for my new...friend. I feel guilty, but I don't know what to do.

My motto has always been "make

the world a happier place—one ass at a time." Somehow I feel that I've failed my mission in a most elemental way.

I'm not sure if I'm looking to you for absolution or perhaps asking you to warn others of the negative effects of saran wrap, or head cleaner, or duct tape, or faulty penmanship or a combination of all the above. I'm in your hands.

—Guilt-ridden

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN:

Clearly, Ms. Behavior needs to write an etiquette manual for sex pigs. Since many of you are gentlemen who are very concerned with the happiness of your partners, you need detailed instruction on gracious ways

to proceed in these delicate circumstances.

Upon discovering your date's rectal irregularity, you should have cut off his oxygen supply until he lost consciousness and etched your best guess at his proctology diagnosis into his buttocks (backward) with a razor.

Upon awakening, the painful skin of his rump would have caused your date to look in the mirror, where he would see the crusty scab detailing your medical opinion. He'd immediately know that: a) you're a loving, concerned man, b) you're a skilled diagnostician, and c) his ass is safe with you.

Of course, hindsight is of little use now, so you'll have to think of another way to contact him.

You might try placing an ad in the personal pages of a few D.C.-area gay publications, saying something like, "Kevin, who likes gas masks and duct tape, it's very important that you contact me." Then leave your e-mail address and hope that he'll follow through.

Of course, you'll probably have to weed through countless responses from other men who long to be restrained and gassed, but that's the price you're bound to pay for your lack of thoroughness during this recent encounter. [F]

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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.



Ms. Behavior by Meryl Cohn

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