

ADVICE

Bad love

Your boots were made for walkin'—
away from selfish lovers



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I have a question I've been dying to ask someone, but it's kind of embarrassing. Is it rude for someone to just turn over and go to sleep after they have been sexually pleased, without returning the favor?

I don't mean to sound naive, but I have only been with three women, and all of them have done that to me at least half of the times I have slept with them. None of them were long-term relationships, but they were all women who I dated for at least a couple of months.

In each of these cases, I have found myself lying in bed, frustrated and staring at the ceiling, while the woman snores peacefully at my side. This isn't the way it happens in lesbian novels.

Am I doing something wrong, Ms. Behavior? Next time it happens, should I say something?

—Novice at Love

DEAR NOVICE AT LOVE:

It's rude (and downright unlesbian) to drift off into blissful slumber mere moments after coming without regard for the person lying next to you. Surely your sexual partners need to be taught some manners or at least trained to be better lovers.

Next time you find you've been left high and dry watching a selfish bottom sleep, start by saying something direct like, "I want to come, too." If she doesn't respond, try touching yourself.

If even that fails to arouse any interest, lift one of your shoes from the heap of clothing that has been scattered on the floor and hold it in the air near your future-ex's head. Smile sweetly and say, "What about ME, you self-centered wench?"

If this does not convince her of the seriousness of her transgression and prompt her into immediate action, do not smash her with the shoe. Simply put it on, along with the other one and the rest of your clothing. Leave (assuming it isn't your apartment) and don't look back.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm 28, and I used to be gay but decided to give it up a few years ago. I'm not a homophobe; I just wanted an easier life.

I'm engaged to marry Gretchen, a woman I do love. Our sex life isn't thrilling, but I

am able to perform sexually, and everything's been going OK.

A few days ago, out of nowhere, Gretchen asked me if I've ever been with a man. I was shocked that she asked, so I denied it. She seemed reassured, but I feel guilty for having lied to her.

Since then, I've been thinking about my sexual experiences with men. In all honesty, they were much more exciting than my experiences with women. I think I can live with a not-so-exciting sex life in exchange for marriage and children, but is it wrong for me to not tell Gretchen about my gay past?

I rationalize it by telling myself that if I'm not acting on it, there's no reason to mention it. What do you think?

—Formerly Gay

DEAR FORMERLY GAY:

If you were comfortable with yourself in your new "straight" life, you probably wouldn't need to lie about the past or feel ashamed about it.

The idea that being queer is just about "acting on it" is probably bound up in religious ideas about sinning. But sexual orientation is not just about who you screw. If you love men and long to be near them and are attracted to their scents and think about sucking their dicks, can you really think of yourself as "straight"?

You say you want an "easier life," but, in reality, it's only easier to be straight if you really are straight. Pretending to be straight or trying to "decide" to be straight sounds like a sad (and/or lazy) alternative to self-acceptance and being proud of who you are.

Why don't you start by coming out as "formerly gay" to a therapist and then move on to telling the woman you plan to marry? Whether or not you and Gretchen decide to stay together, at least you'll be making a decision that's based on the truth. **J**

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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). Signed copies are available directly from the author. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.

SPIRITUALITY

Metro: Spirituality

Ainsworth United Church of Christ is a multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming church. Sunday worship is at 10 am; church school for children runs concurrently. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767. aucoc@teleport.com) (7/04)

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday. 503-281-0722.) (7/04)

Bridgeport United Church of Christ is a community of progressive, political people exploring and celebrating the Christian faith. We are sexual minority and straight, multicultural and multiracial, and our children are valued members. (10:30 am Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-258-0992. www.bridgeportucc.org) (7/04)

The City Church, Portland's "oldest gay-affirming Christian church," offers a spirit-driven church for today's diverse generations. (10 am Sunday communion and worship service. 6:30 pm Sunday worship service. 3830 SE 62nd Ave. 503-775-5024.) (7/04)

Congregation P'nai Or (Faces of Light) is a vibrant, egalitarian, Jewish Renewal congregation in Portland. Meets several times a month at Portland State University Campus Ministries. (PO Box 42187, Portland, OR 97242-0187. 503-248-4500. www.pnaiorpdx.org) (7/04)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, a welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service and children's religious education. (10:30 am Sunday. 1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. eastrose@teleport.com. www.eastrose.org) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

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 9 and 11 am. (1011 SW 12th Ave. 503-228-6389. www.firstunitarianportland.org) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

Gay Meditation Group is a casual, nonreligious group for gay and bi men that meets to meditate together and socialize. (7:30 pm Tuesdays beginning Jan. 6. Dean Sidwell 503-997-6319.) (7/04)

Gay Men's Labyrinth Project meets quarterly for a walking meditation and wisdom circle on the labyrinth. (Dale 503-233-2026, ext. 3. www.interfaithspiritualcenter.com) (7/04)

Integrity is a group of sexual minority Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Bruce 503-286-9111. brucepdx@attbi.com. www.integrityusa.org) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

Keshet Portland is a potluck group for Jewish members of the sexual minorities community and their partners, spouses and supporters. Its purpose is to help build bridges with the larger Jewish community. Monthly social, religious and cultural events. (David or Laney 503-226-7079, ext. 14.) (7/04)

Koinonia Catholic Community is a progressive, small faith community that gathers weekly to celebrate Eucharist at Bridgeport United Church of Christ. A welcoming congregation, Catholic in tradition and Ecumenical in membership. (6 pm Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-699-0473. www.koinoniacommunity.org) (7/04)

Lesbian Christian Fellowship meets for study and social outings. Committed Christians and still-unsures welcome. (Barbara 503-760-5791.) (7/04)

Longview United Methodist Church is welcoming and reconciling. (10 am Sunday. 2851 30th Ave. 360-425-4927.) (7/04)

Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church is a "house church" that brings gay and straight together. Daily morning prayer and Sunday evening worship. (503-281-3697. www.tearsoup.com/metanoia) (7/04)

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 service. (2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868. info@mccportland.com. www.mccportland.com) (7/04)

The Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland offers several weekly gatherings. Everyone welcome! (10 am Sunday. 7:30 am Tuesday and Thursday. 7:30 pm Wednesday meditation. 2025 SE Yamhill St. 503-232-8064. www.nichiren-shu.org/portland) (7/04)

Northwest Two-Spirit Society of Portland welcomes new members from the native LGBT (Two-Spirits) community to join our council and organize or attend monthly meetings. (Amanda 503-869-0076. thesebrads@go.com) (7/04)

Peace Church of the Brethren is a welcoming congregation. (11 am Sunday. 12727 SE Market St. 503-254-6380.) (7/04)

Portland Center for Spiritual Growth is a center for worship, growth and leadership that adheres to an all-inclusive spiritual philosophy similar to 12-step, Unity and Religious Science. (503-777-0727. www.portlandcenter.org) (7/04)

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@poez.com) (7/04)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship is a support organization for LGBT people, their families and friends. (PO Box 7320, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-7320. 866-732-5677. office@sdakinship.org. www.sdakinship.org) (7/04)

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. sisterspirit@teleport.com) (7/04)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is an active member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations. Sunday school and nursery care. Classes, community service activities and events for all ages and interests. (9-9:30 am Sunday

chapel service. 10 am Sunday community worship service. 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073. staff@southmin.com. www.southmin.com) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

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. www.stjameslutheranportland.org) (7/04)

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. 1432 SW 13th Ave. 503-223-6424.) (7/04)

Waverly Heights 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) (7/04)

Wyeast Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an open and liberal religious community offering intergenerational services and religious education for children, youth and adults. It welcomes gay, lesbian, bi and trans members. It nurtures spiritual growth and promotes living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (4 pm Sunday. 5 pm in summer. 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3704. www.wyeast.pnwd.uua.org) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

Central Oregon: Spirituality

United Church of Christ Congregational is an open and affirming congregation in The Dalles. (9:20 am adult Sunday school. 10:30 am Sunday worship. 111 E Fifth St. 541-296-2909. ucccong@netnet.net. www.forministry.com/uscocofcucc) (7/04)

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. Rev. Kathleen Vengin. 360-573-2626.) (7/04)

East Vancouver United Methodist Church is reconciling and welcoming. (10 am Sunday. 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761.) (7/04)

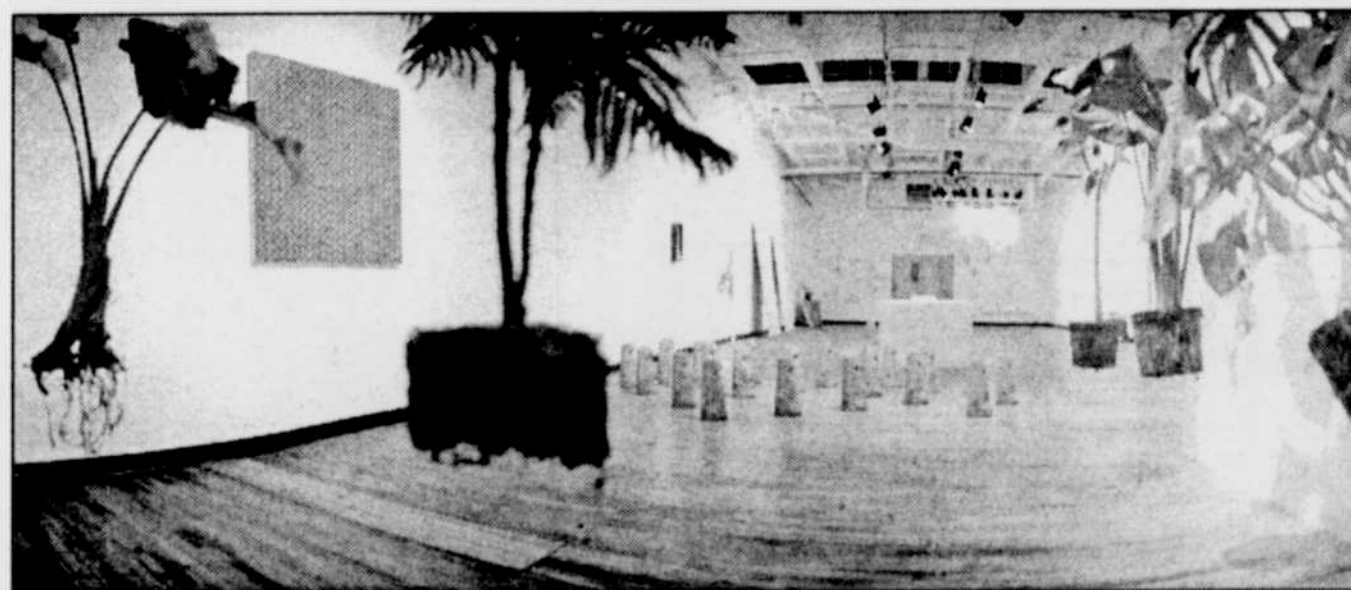
First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, holds services in an open and affirming congregation. (10 am Sunday worship. 11:15 am adult education. 1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver. 360-693-1476. vanucc@aol.com) (7/04)

Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd in Vancouver welcomes you. (10:30 am and 6:30 pm Sunday worship. 9 am Sunday Bible study. 2200 Broadway. The Rev. Harriet Barshofsky 360-695-1480.) (7/04)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a Welcoming Congregation, provides a home for the liberal religious spirit. (9:30 and 11:15 am Sunday. 4505 E 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.) (7/04)

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. (9:30 am Sunday learning hour. 10:30 am worship. 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.) (7/04)



Haze Gallery continues its novel *Battle of the Artist Curators* through Dec. 31

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Flavors, a social support group for sexual minority youth of color 21 and younger, meets on weekends for food and socializing. Regular events and activities. Flavors is a project of Love Makes a Family's MultiQueer program and is supported by Brother to Brother. (Jaye 503-228-3892. jaye@lmfamily.org) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

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 LGBTQ youth of color. (Jaye 503-228-3892. jaye@lmfamily.org) (7/04)

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. Needs volunteers of all ages. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday. 1132 SW 13th Ave. 503-535-3800. www.outsidein.org) (7/04)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, a program of Cascade Behavioral HealthCare, offers support and recreation to gay, lesbian, bi and trans youth 23 and younger. Offers drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly support meetings includes Trans Youth Group and the creative group Personal Delty Proxy. (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) (7/04) Other programs include: **Clackamas County Sexual Minority Youth Connection (COSMYC)** provides opportunities for queer and questioning youth ages 23 and younger to get together for free, fun and supportive social activities. Offers one-on-one support, referrals and information on HIV and STD prevention and resources for adults who work with LGBTQ youth. (503-969-0060. cosmycyouth@yahoo.com) **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) (7/04)

Eastern Oregon: Youth

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living offers support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Eastern Oregon. (541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. ecol@ecol.org. www.ecol.org) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)