

ADVICE

Sex and marriage, sex and marriage...

Go together like...er, well, we wouldn't know, we're a little new to this all being legal

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My boyfriend doesn't want to have sex with me anymore. We've been together for several years, and he seems to have simply lost interest, although he doesn't say so. The best I ever got out of him (after lots of cajoling) is for him to lick my sack while I spank the monkey. At this point, it's better than nothing, although he pouts about the effort involved.

We always said that if we stopped having sex, we'd open the relationship up. Do you count sack-licking as sex? What about mutual masturbation?

Please give me a list of what counts and what doesn't, so I'll know when I'm officially free to get out and get some hot sex, which I've been missing now for several years. I'll consider your word the final word.



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

—Sam

DEAR SAM:

Licking your "sack" doesn't count and licking just the base of your penis doesn't count and sucking just the head doesn't count, either. In fact, anal sex doesn't count if you thrust for less than five minutes. And if you drop a cookie on the floor and pick it up within five seconds, there are no germs on it.

Oh, wait. You're not asking what counts as cheating (like lesbians usually do); you want to know if you're still having sex with your boyfriend. Well, sort of. Not really.

If you and your boyfriend had started out with a sex life limited to mutual masturbation, ball-licking and other such delicate snack-like activities, you might be able to count what you're doing now as sex. But if you've gone from full-fledged fucking and sucking to some occasional testicular nibbling, the sad news is that you've taken the plunge into the ice-cold waters of Homo Bed Death.

As for whether that entitles you to open up your relationship, Ms. Behavior doesn't know. If you're not open to going to couple's therapy, Ms. Behavior would happily encourage you to swallow your sorrow by sucking off the entire local gay swim team. Unfortunately, the decision about opening your relationship to others must be made by you and your sad sack boyfriend.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm so happy that my girlfriend and I can officially tie the knot in Massachusetts that I've been literally talking about it with everyone I know: family, friends, co-workers.

I never thought I'd live to see the day that two happy lesbians could walk down the aisle together and be recognized as wife and wife by the state and

of course, by the good and gracious Goddess! How lucky we are.

Here's my problem. Louise, my "wife" of 17 years, couldn't care less about getting married. It hurts me deeply because I have always wanted to be a bride, and I have always wanted to marry her.

How can I convince Louise to say "I do"? I'm

serious. I fear the Supreme Court decision that declares denying marriage to homosexual couples unconstitutional will soon be overturned, and I'll miss my chance.

—Running (Not Walking)
Down That Aisle

DEAR RUNNING (NOT WALKING) DOWN THAT AISLE:

Ms. Behavior joins with you in celebrating the Supreme Judicial Court decision and suspects the number of queers reveling in the happy news far surpasses the number pulling each other's hair out over who to invite or whether to book a rabbi, minister or judge.

Being able to convince Louise to marry you will depend on why she's opposed. If she's politically distressed by the notion of marriage (e.g., if she believes that enacting this freedom actually involves succumbing to oppression by the pushy white male patriarchy), she's less likely to flip to your way of thinking than if she's just feeling a bit too chubby to wear a white dress by late spring. (Think Atkins mid-February.)

You say Louise "couldn't care less about getting married," which sounds more hopeful than if she were maniacally opposed. You may not be able to make her care about getting hitched, but it doesn't mean she won't do it.

The question is really, How do you convince Louise to do anything she doesn't feel like doing? How do you get her to walk the dog at midnight or to go to your mother's house for yet another holiday dinner? If you're like most other people, the mutual decisions in your relationship are fueled by some combination of flattery, bribery, blackmail and love.

Of course, manipulating someone into marrying you doesn't feel as fulfilling as having her fall to her knees and propose, but you've had her for better or worse for 17 years, so maybe just her reluctant presence at the altar will be enough. ☐

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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 multi-racial, 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.) (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 Men's Labyrinth Project meets quarterly for a walking meditation and wisdom circle on the labyrinth. (www.gaylabyrinth.com.) (7/04)

Gay Men's Spirit Group is open to all men experienced or interested in alternative spiritual practices such as New Age, shamanism, meditation, psychic/intuitive, energy work and healing. (503-230-7949.) (7/04)

Integrity is a group of sexual minority Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Bruce 503-286-9111. brucepdxor@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)

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 queer (Two-Spirit) community to join our council and organize or attend monthly meetings. (Amanda 503-869-0076. thesebraids@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)



All hail the "Puppet Master" at Guardino Gallery through Jan. 27

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@pcez.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@sdaykinship.org. www.sdaykinship.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. sistersp@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 7-4:45 and 10 am Sunday. Sunday school and child care at 10 am. 1432 SW 13th Ave. 503-223-6424.) (7/04)

University Park United Methodist Church believes in giving to the community, caring for one another and making a difference one person at a time. Come celebrate God's diversity with us! (10 am Sunday. 4775 N Lombard St. The Rev. Jeannie Knepper 503-289-7843.) (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 youth and adults. We welcome gay, lesbian, bi and trans members and nurture spiritual growth living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (4 pm Sunday. 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3704. www.wyeast.pnw.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. ucccong1@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usorucfucoccc.) (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)

questioning youth in Eastern Oregon. (541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. eocil@eocil.org. www.eocil.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 Hiway 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)

Rainbow Youth is a safe, confidential support group for young gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, questioning and friends. (6-8 pm Wednesdays. Micha Building, 690 State St., Salem. www.salemrainbowyouth.org.) (7/04)

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 queer 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 Cascadia 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 Deity 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.) Other programs include: **Clackamas County Sexual Minority Youth Connection (COS-MYC)** 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 queer 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