

ADVICE

# Tops, bottoms and formers

Queers telling lies and living them



**Ms. Behavior**  
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:  
Recently I met a man online, and we developed a rapport very quickly. I explained that I was a total top, to which he replied that he was a total bottom and had no interest in being anything else.  
He invited me to spend a weekend with him in another city. Just as I was about to order tickets to travel, he suddenly revealed that he's actually a top, and a leather master to boot! He then told me he wanted me to know before it went any further and asked if we could be friends!

I asked him how he thought we could be friends when he began by outright lying to me. He acted as if I had an attitude problem, which I don't think I do. How is it possible to have any relationship, even a friendship, when it's all built on lies?  
If he had leveled with me from the start, maybe we could have been friends—I've been very good friends with other tops over the years—but I can't help but feel that his actions showed disrespect and dishonesty. Am I overreacting?

—Morally Outraged

DEAR MORALLY OUTRAGED:

Oh, if only everyone would tell the truth online! No one would wonder if the woman who says she's wearing a push-up bra, French-cut bikini and heels is really a wormy man in a dirty bathrobe. Everyone would post real photos, not clippings from glamorous magazines.  
And a big top like you could safely meet a bottom, without worrying that he secretly wishes to do terrible things to you. If everyone would just be honest, so many more people would meet their soul mates!  
But not everyone who's looking for sex online is looking for a real connection. Some people want to discuss their sexual fantasies but don't want anything more. And, yes, a top may sometimes fantasize about being a bottom and vice versa. Like it or not, the Internet also provides anonymity and lots of opportunities for games.  
Your faux bottom, who was probably just looking for entertainment, is unlikely to become your friend. You think he's a liar, and he thinks you have an attitude problem. You should probably start over and place a personal ad for a sweet, earnest bottom who values honesty and always tells the truth.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:  
Your fake "ex-gay" column was full of holes [Dec. 19]. Stevie Wonder could have seen the propaganda that it was propped up on.  
First, you jumped to the conclusion that "Formerly Gay" was religious,

though it was never mentioned nor alluded to. Secondly, any gay man who has never had an experience with a woman will say, "Sex with men was better." OK, so let's compare years of sex with men to a few rolls in the hay with a woman.

Third, simply thinking about a past gay act does make one want to be gay. But your juvenile comment demanded he immediately plunge back into the hell he came out of or get chained up on the gay plantation again.

Fourth, a real ex-gay would not write a so-called lesbian to get advice on his now heterosexual relationship. If that occurred he wouldn't be ex-gay, he'd be what you would call a fool.

—Mr. Foster

DEAR MR. FOSTER:

Thinking about a past gay act can lead to arousal and perhaps a memory of what one is missing while he clings to a hyperheterosexual facade that doesn't fit. Is that what's happening for you?

In his letter "Formerly Gay" expressed shame about his gay past. Ms. Behavior merely suggested that the notion that being queer is just about "acting on it" is probably bound up in religious ideas about sinning. No one suggested that "Formerly Gay" was necessarily a follower of Christianity.

This may come as a surprise, but preferring sex with men is a fairly reliable sign of homosexuality. While practice might result in greater enjoyment, most straight men do not need to learn to like sex with women. (You make heterosexual sex sound like as much fun as learning to walk after a head injury.)

You assume that a "real ex-gay" would not write a "so-called lesbian" for advice, but you apparently still read gay publications. Perhaps you follow queer columns merely to write letters disputing what you read with the hope of converting lost souls who can be saved from a life of "hell." Or is it because you find the articles and photographs in gay magazines arousing, despite your so-called conversion?

Maybe some of your anger comes from the fact that you're no longer having sex with men. Maybe you should come back to the chains of the gay plantation and see if you really miss forcing yourself to date women. ☐

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.pnaicordx.org](http://www.pnaicordx.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](mailto:eastrose@teleport.com). [www.eastrose.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:brucepdxor@attbi.com). [www.integrityusa.org](http://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](http://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.koinoniacomunity.org](http://www.koinoniacomunity.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](http://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](mailto:info@mccportland.com). [www.mccportland.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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)

**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](http://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@pccz.com](mailto:otter@pccz.com).) (7/04)

**Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship** is a support organization for queer people, their families and friends. (PO Box 7320, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-7320. 866-732-5677. [office@sdakinship.org](mailto:office@sdakinship.org). [www.sdakinship.org](http://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. [sistersp@teleport.com](mailto: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](mailto:staff@southmin.com). [www.southmin.com](http://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](http://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)

**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](http://www.waverlyucc.org).) (7/04)

**Wyeast Unitarian Universalist Congregation** is an open and liberal religious community offering inter-generational 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.pnwduua.org](http://www.wyeast.pnwduua.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](mailto:ucccong@netnet.net). [www.forministry.com/usocccfuccucc](http://www.forministry.com/usocccfuccucc).) (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. The Rev. Kathleen Verigin 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](mailto: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)

(541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. [eocil@eocil.org](mailto:eocil@eocil.org). [www.eocil.org](http://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 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. 541-348-1134.) (7/04)

**Rainbow Youth** is a safe, confidential support group for young gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, questioning and friends. (6-8 pm Wednesday. Micha Building, 690 State St., Salem. [www.salemrainbowyouth.org](http://www.salemrainbowyouth.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 Deity Proxy. (4-8 pm Monday and Wednesday, 4 pm-midnight Friday and Saturday. 2100 SE Belmont St. 503-872-8664. TTY 503-231-9286. [www.smyrc.org](http://www.smyrc.org).) Other programs include: **Cleekamas 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 queer and questioning youth. (503-969-0060. [cosmycyouth@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:glsen@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 and questioning youth of color. (Jaye 503-228-3892. [jaye@lmfamily.org](mailto: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](http://www.outsidein.org).) (7/04)

Send your **outreach** listings to:  
just out (attn: Calendar) • P.O. Box 14400 • Portland, OR 97293 0400  
Fax submissions to 503-236-1257 or e-mail [justout@justout.com](mailto:justout@justout.com)

Submissions cannot be accepted over the phone. • Please type your announcements and include full contact information.