

ADVICE

Love stinks

So sick of men, I've gone limp



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:
Men suck. I know—I am one. I've had four mid-length relationships: John, who I cheated on relentlessly, having long-term affairs while dragging him along (four years); Michael, who was my match—we lied and cheated on each other equally—and, yes, there was overlap with John (seven years); Carl, a closet case (one year); and Joey.

By the time I got to Joey, I had examined my past and seen the behavior patterns, so I stopped cheating and lying. I vowed to "do it right" this time. I would become the boyfriend I always wanted.

Of course, I should have also realized that Joey's frequent rehab trips might continue even though he was clean when we met. I supported Joey for 5 1/2 years. The last 2 1/2 we had no sex or intimacy.

He actively used for 3 1/2 years of the relationship. I basically decided it was my punishment for what I had done to others. We broke up a year and a half ago when I finally decided that being alone would be better than having the life sucked out of me by an active addict. Of course, he immediately got clean, got a good job and is now dating a professional architect.

Here are my issues today: Men SUCK. I don't want one. I hate them. I can't even orgasm with a man any longer (though I have no problem with masturbation) and have considered dating women. I have no desire to be alone for the rest of my life without a partner, but the thought of being with a man—with all the lying, cheating, selfish behavior—holds no appeal either. I feel lost without a solution.

I am turning 40. I go to the gym, I make good money, I have a career and investments. But I have lost faith that there is someone out there for me. What do I do?

—Terminally Unique

DEAR TERMINALLY UNIQUE:

You poor jaded little dear. Not all men lie and cheat and do drugs behind your back, but it's all you know, and you're afraid to hope for anything better. You're in a negative relationship pattern where someone has to be the betrayer and someone has to be the victim. You say that men suck and that you don't want one, but then you complain that there's no one out there for you.

Frankly, you sound like a bit of a mess behind your good-job, gym-body exterior. Maybe you need to admit it and ask for help instead of trying to pretend you're fine. It's clear that your emotional life isn't working since you

hate men, can't orgasm unless you're alone and consider dating women even though you're gay. Maybe you'll find help with a good therapist. You may also need to make amends to your previous boyfriends, since your guilt for how you behaved in the past still affects you and may prevent you from having a successful relationship.

Do something to help yourself. You deserve better, even if you don't believe it.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

A lesbian co-worker of mine, Ann, told me she's getting married next month and asked that I be sure to tell my sister, Jane. Ann's lover, Gretchen, has been a colleague and mentor to my sister for several years. Gretchen organized a baby shower for my sister when she was pregnant. We all work for the same company.

Given the late notice and informality of the notice, I'm not expecting either myself or my sister to be invited. I would like to let them know, however, that Jane and I wish them well.

I verbally congratulated Ann when she told me about her plans but was wondering if it would be appropriate for my sister and me to send them flowers. If so, when should we send them? If not, is there some other action you would recommend?

—Trying to Do the Right Thing

DEAR TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING:

Don't be thrown by the dyke angle, dear Well-Meaning Straight Person; just treat Ann and Gretchen's wedding the same way you'd treat anyone else's. Sending flowers to someone who's getting married will never be a faux pas. If you send them the day before, you're more likely to catch them at home.

There is one little Sapphic secret, though. For a lesbian betrothal, you must carefully choose flowers that look like labia. Go to the florist with this goal in mind, and be sure to choose something pretty. Bring a compact mirror with you in case you need to surreptitiously step out into the parking lot to see if the flowers you've chosen pass the test. [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). 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 multi-racial, and our children are valued members. (10:30 am Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-258-0992. www.bridgeportucc.org) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

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. office@eastrose.org. www.eastrose.org) (7/05)

Eckankar—Religion of the Light and Sound of God holds worship services and maintains a library of materials to help you learn about the Divine Spirit in today's world. (10 am Sunday. 7904 SE Milwaukie Ave. 503-233-1595. www.eckankar.org) (7/05)

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 (IGALO) 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)

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 wel-

coming congregation, Catholic in tradition and Ecumenical in membership. (6 pm Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-699-0473. 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) (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)

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)

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. Impromptu wedding ceremonies available. (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@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. 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) (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)

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, a welcoming and affirming congregation, invites all to worship services and ongoing programs in spiritual development, community outreach, music and arts education. (8 am Sunday Rite I chapel service. 10 am Sunday Rite II cathedral service. 147 NW 19th Ave. 503-222-9811. www.trinity-episcopal.org) (7/04)

Trinity United Methodist Church is for all people

who seek the grace of God and desire to work for peace and justice. Child care available. (10:30 am Sunday. 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3901.) (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 United Church of Christ 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 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.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. ucccong@netcnct.net. www.loministry.com/usocofcucc) (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 Venig 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. (9am 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)

Metropolitan Community Church Two Rivers is a Christian church with primary outreach in the sexual minorities community. (6:30 pm Sunday. 1166 Oak St., Eugene.) (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)

Out 'n' About Youth meet every Thursday in Corvallis. (7 pm. 1165 Monroe Ave. 541-754-3906.) (7/04)

Rainbow Youth is a safe, confidential support group for young gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, questioning and friends in Salem. (6-8 pm Wednesday. 690 State St. 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. (Kristy 503-228-3892. multi queer@mfamily.org) (7/04)

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) fights to end anti-gay bias in K-12 schools. (Suite 180, 12700 SW North Dakota St. #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 and questioning youth of color. (Kristy 503-228-3892. multi queer@mfamily.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. 503-535-3900. www.outsidein.org) (7/04)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center

(SMYRC), 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 include 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 (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) **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. ecocil@ecocil.org. www.ecocil.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

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