

ADVICE

Three is a magic number

Lesbian couple fantasize about bringing a straight man into their bedroom

Editor's note: Ms. Behavior is on vacation, so we're renaming a popular column from the archives.



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:
I recently told my girlfriend, Sandra, my fantasy about inviting a man to watch us in bed. She joined in the fantasy, and we described it to each other as we

made love. Our imaginary man just observed, but we were both turned on by the idea, and our sex was very exciting.

The problem is that Sandra now seems preoccupied with this idea and wants to make it a reality! The other night she came home and said: "Guess what? I think I found a man to watch us."

I said, "Excuse me, but I thought that was just a fantasy." Sandra has been sulking ever since. Ms. Behavior, I feel torn. I like to believe I'm adventurous; if I could get beyond my apprehension, it would be really fun.

But straight men make me nervous. We'd like one to watch but not participate. I want to make my girlfriend happy, but the idea of inviting a third person—especially this guy, who lives only two blocks away—into our bedroom makes me anxious. Do we need other lesbians there to make sure it doesn't get out of hand?

—Laura

DEAR LAURA:

You complain that your girlfriend is taking the fantasy too seriously, but Ms. Behavior can't help but notice that your question ultimately is not "Should we do this?" but rather "When we do this, how do we keep the straight dude—or his penis—from getting 'out of hand'?"

Since you're lesbians, be sure to process it a lot first. Talk about what will make you feel safe and how you'll handle it if one of you feels uncomfortable or self-conscious (or throws up at the sight of a wiener).

Don't involve the guy who lives nearby. Find someone (maybe a friend of a friend?) who you'll never see again. There's no shortage of straight men who'd happily trade their Snap-On Tools or their mothers for the chance to watch lesbians have sex.

Your idea about having a couple of dykes there as bouncers, in case the man gets out of control, is a good one. Then maybe you can hire a dog to bark in case the dykes are overcome by passion and try to insert themselves into your act. And if you can arrange it for a convenient time, say, Wednesday evening between 10 and midnight, perhaps Ms. Behavior can come along to keep her eye on the dog.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:
On a recent trip to Provincetown, I ran (literally) into a delicate sexual etiquette problem. While walking my dog off-leash on the beach in a cruisy area known as the "dick dock"—I'm a lesbian and wasn't in search of dick—my dog, Charlotte, ran off and starting licking and jumping on two men engaged in a sexual act.

I stood about 10 yards away, unsure what to do. I felt too embarrassed to call the dog, so I just stood in the shadows and waited until they were done. This took about 15 minutes, which I thought was a long time, but I guess a leaping dog is a bit of a distraction.

I'm a sex-positive lesbian with no judgment about public sex, but I also don't feel that it deserves any particular reverence on my part. Silently waiting until those men were finished made me feel disempowered, so I don't want to do that again.

I don't intend to stop walking my dog at the beautiful moonlit beach—and I don't want to put her on a leash because she rarely gets to run free—so I need to know what to do in the future. How polite should I be when she encounters or interrupts men having sex? Should I call my dog loudly and hope she feels like obeying? Or should I walk unabashedly up to the fellating men, say "Excuse me" and retrieve her?

—K.

DEAR K.:

The beach is a public place, and you don't seem like a dyke who'd go blind at the sight of a penis, so feel free to walk right up to your leaping dog and the men who happen to be the object of her attention.

Conversation probably isn't necessary, and you seem polite enough to not demand that others speak to you with their mouths full.

You might also consider a simple, less interactive approach: Just stay where you are and yell, "Charlotte, come!"

Of course, yelling a demand to come while people are having sex can go either way; it could either help bring the act to completion or it could wilt their...attention. Either way, you'd probably get your dog back quickly. ☺

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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

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday, 503-281-0722.) (7/05)

Atkinson Memorial Church, a Unitarian Universalist church, provides a spiritual home for those looking for a liberal-minded, supportive and caring congregation in Oregon City. (10:30 am Sunday, 710 Sixth St. 503-656-7296.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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. Learn how the Divine Spirit works throughout your own life in today's world. (10 am Sunday, 7904 SE Milwaukie Ave. 503-233-1595. www.eckankar.org.) (7/05)

The Enneagram Community of Portland offers mentoring, therapy, spiritual direction, classes, workshops and retreats. (enneagrampdx@aol.com, www.enneagramportland.com.) (7/05)

Faith United Methodist Church is a welcoming congregation that values and affirms the sacredness of all people. We invite and encourage everyone to find a place in the family of God. (10:15 am Sunday, 27400 SE Stark St., Troutdale, 503-661-4520.) (7/05)

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation in the liberal Christian tradition. Church school and nursery care. (10:25 am Sunday, 1126 SW Park Ave. 503-228-7219.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Integrity is a group of sexual minority Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Steven Norcross or Bruce 503-286-9111. brucepdxor@comcast.net, www.integrityusa.org.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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 503-226-7079, ext. 14.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Peace Church of the Brethren is a welcoming congregation. (11 am Sunday, 12727 SE Market St. 503-254-6380.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County is an open and affirming liberal religious community offering a variety of enrichment programs in addition to community and social action opportunities. (9 and 11 am Sunday, 22785 NW Birch St., Hillsboro, 503-648-1720. www.uuccwc.org.) (7/05)

Waverly Heights United Church of Christ is open and affirming with worship, children's school and child care. (10 am summer, 11 am school year, 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-238-1337. pastor@waverlyucc.org, www.waverlyucc.org.) (7/05)

Wy'east 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.wyecast.pnw.uua.org.) (7/05)

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, multi-age/race/cultural faith community. (11 am Sunday [10:30 am summer], 2025 NE 23rd Ave., Gresham, 503-665-8741.) (7/05)

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 worship [9:30 am summer], 111 E Fifth St. 541-296-2909. ucccong@netcnct.net, www.forministry.com/usoruofucccc.) (7/05)

Washington: Spirituality

Abundant Life Center assists the community in spiritual growth. (10 am Sunday, 111 W 39th St., Vancouver. The Rev. Kathleen Venjin 360-573-2626. www.abundant-life-center.org.) (7/05)

Longview United Methodist Church is welcoming and reconciling. (10 am Sunday, 2851 30th Ave., Longview, 360-425-4927.) (7/05)

Metropolitan Church of the Gentle Shepherd in Vancouver welcomes you. (10:30 am and 6:30 pm Sunday worship. Bible study follows morning worship. 2200 Broadway St. The Rev. Harriet Barshofsky 360-695-1480.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Vancouver. Meets every Tuesday in the basement of Youth House. (6-8 pm, 1112 Columbia St. John 360-695-1325.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)



Belinki & Duprey Gallery celebrates Latin American art and culture Oct. 4-Nov. 10

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship is a support organization for former and current Adventists who are queer as well as their family and friends. (PO Box 49375, Sarasota, FL 34230-6375. 866-732-5677. office@sdakinship.org, www.sdakinship.org.) (7/05)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is an active member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations. Sunday school, nursery care, classes, community service activities and events for all ages and interests. (9 am Sunday chapel service, 10 am Sunday main worship service, 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton, 503-644-2073. staff@southmin.com, www.southmin.com.) (7/05)

St. Andrew Catholic Church invites all to join a diverse faith community for prayer and fellowship. (9:30 am Sunday; Noon Spanish language service, 806 NE Alberta St. 503-281-4429.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

social events. Also information, referral and advocacy services in Washington County. (Molly 503-260-5792. molly@pridsproject.org.) (7/05)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) offers support and recreation to gay, lesbian, bi and trans youth 23 and younger. 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.) (7/05)

Eastern Oregon: Youth

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living offers support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Eastern Oregon. (1021 SW 5th Ave., Ontario, 541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. eoicl@eoicl.org, www.eoicl.org.) (7/05)

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Network (GLSEN) strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. (12700 SW North Dakota St., Suite 180 #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177. glsen@glsenoregon.org, www.glsenoregon.org.) (7/05)

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. Provide transitional housing for youth 20 and younger and for those HIV-positive and younger than 23. Need volunteers of all ages. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday, 1132 SW 13th Ave. 503-535-3800. www.outsidein.org.) (7/05)

Pride Project brings together Washington County queer and questioning youth to plan and attend monthly