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PET HEALTH SEMINAR
Tuesday, February 7 • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
HEALTHY PETS, NW ALBERTA • 2224 NE ALBERTA
The seminar will be led by Dr. Gaia Mather N.D on Pet Skin Problems.

The Fanno Creek Clinic

is enrolling volunteers for a medical research study assessing the safety and effectiveness of a new treatment to reduce HIV-associated abdominal fat accumulation.

Individuals who are 18 to 65 years old and have documented HIV infection are invited to volunteer. You must be taking anti-retroviral medications for at least 8 weeks prior to entering this study and have evidence of excess abdominal fat accumulation.

For more information,
please contact **Lisa Zeigler**,
Fanno Creek Clinic
Research Study Coordinator
at (503) 452-0915, ext. 30.

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Matchmaker, Matchmaker

That magic moment

Recently, Marc and I set out on the risky path of playing matchmaker to female friends. I say risky because we never set up a bosom buddy with someone we wouldn't hold against our own bosom. (My litmus test is, "Would I fuck him?")

Of course, not being attracted to women, we didn't know whether we'd date either of these Sapphic sisters. But the perfect opportunity to introduce two lesbian lovers of literature, Jen Schuch and Linda Murrell, arose when our good friends Torrey Cornwell and Tara Duncan invited us to watch *The L Word*.

After a few stiff drinks and much discussion about how we all hated the character of Jenny (I'd never seen the show, but that didn't stop me from hating her, too), Lisa Winchester called out, "It's on!" and we settled in the cozy living room for the season premiere.

Apparently, Cupid aims well, because I noticed Jen and Linda sat side by side, then continued chatting as we drove them back to their homes (as opposed to gay men, who would require only one stop). The next day, much to our delight, Linda e-mailed asking for juicy Jen's digits and Jen e-mailed asking for the 411 on Linda. Dolly Levi, eat your heart out!

Hopefully, Linda and Jen will experience that magic moment when each realizes that the other is "the one." I certainly remember that fateful instant 19 years ago that transformed me from a single man.

On a cold Halloween night, I invited Marc to the Greenwich Village parade in NYC. There, among the costumed queers, he became the first person outside my immediate circle to learn I was HIV-positive. I remember thinking that honesty was a prerequisite for a relationship—even on the first date.

That act of bravery (and coming out as HIV-positive takes as much courage as coming out as gay) paid off, because he wrapped me in his arms and held me while I sobbed. At that moment, I knew he was "the one."

Others in long-term relationships have experienced the same feeling of destiny.

At a former job, Q Center interim director Susan Remmers was supervising

Gillian Leichtling. Remmers says: "I was utterly distracted whenever I saw her. I couldn't even complete a thought." But when Remmers sat Gillian down to tell her they shouldn't flirt any longer, Gillian's response was, "What are you going to say when I ask you out?" That was the moment, Remmers realized, "I would leave my job, because this was a feeling I'd never had in my life before."

Perry Heitman had "the moment" 10 years ago at the airport while dropping off partner Todd Canon after a visit. "I became all teary-eyed at say-



Out Going
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

ing goodbye...and realized there was something special about Todd—more than what was visible on the surface, which was my main motivation for asking him out in the first place."

Rob Anderson met Jeff Hawthorne on Gay.com five years ago. After some online flirting, Jeff asked for a picture and Rob hesitantly sent the only one he had, a snapshot with his 5-year-old son. "Jeff was so overwhelmingly interested in meeting me after that," Rob said, "that it made me know it wasn't just about one thing." When they finally met at Kennedy School, Jeff "walked in with his little black and yellow leather motorcycle jacket. He was very confident. At that moment I knew that I wanted it to go further."

Andy Linehan knew Carl Snook was the one 16 years ago as he was driving his Toyota Corolla across the Marquam Bridge. Andy had just come out and gotten divorced, and Carl had given him a CD of Mahler's Second Symphony, *The Resurrection*, which ends with a huge triumphal chorus. "I remember driving to his house and playing it on the car stereo," Andy recalls. The ending



Floyd Sklaver set up Jen Schuch (second from right) and Linda Murrell (petting the pooch) on their first date.

"represents the opening of the heavens and being reborn after experiencing trials. It was sort of a confirmation that this is a wonderful moment and we have a wonderful thing. After that, I knew we were going to be together for a long time."

As for Jen and Linda, they've had their first successful date. I can't wait for the next time they're Out Going. 10

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event. E-mail him at floydsklaver@comcast.net.

LISA WINCHESTER AND MICAYA HAREN