

sue some creative activity. Noncommercial, nonjudgmental; supporting personal creativity for novices and professionals alike. Monthly potlucks on the second Friday. (7 pm. Carl 503-284-2971.)

Film discussion group forming for gay, bi and trans men. Share your perspective regarding portrayals of sexual minority men in current films. Monthly activities include group outings to see films. (filmtalk@verizon.net.)

Portland Gay Men's Chorus is open to singers, support members and volunteers. (503-226-2588. www.pdxgmc.org.)

Portland Lesbian Choir is an informal, nonaudition community chorus for women of all ages to sing, socialize and share songs, melodies and talents. The only requirement is you must like to sing and have a good time! (7-8:30 pm Wednesday. 503-727-3306. portlandlesbianchoir@hotmail.com. www.plchoir.org.)

Rose City Gay Freedom Band is a performance group for queers and supportive friends of varying musical skill levels with annual fall and spring concerts. Subgroups include the Rose City Swing band and a marching band with flag corps. Come join us! (503-790-2170. info@rcgfb.org. www.rcgfb.org.)

Satori Men's Chorus welcomes new members of all ages and races, regardless of sexual orientation or musical background, to join Wednesday rehearsals. No audition necessary. (503-299-4454. www.satorichorus.org.)

General

Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbians and Gays is a nonprofit community voice for gay, lesbian and bi Asian and Pacific Islanders. Activities include potlucks, recreational outings and cultural events. Friendly environment to meet and connect with other API. (PO Box 12661, Portland, OR 97232. aplg_pdx@yahoo.com.)

Bad Girls is a social and educational leather and B/D/S/M club for self-identified women with an emphasis on safety and education. Workshops, discussions, events and parties. Women of all orientations can connect and ask questions during the Kinky Women's Welcoming Munch at 7 pm every second Tuesday. (503-972-2233. www.pdxbadgirls.net.)

Cascade Flyers are gay, lesbian and bi aviators, both private and professional, in Washington, Oregon and southern British Columbia. Dinner meetings in Portland area. (503-701-7922. casflyers@yahoo.com. www.geocities.com/casflyers.)

A Common Bond is a social support network for former or questioning Jehovah's Witnesses who are queer. (acbpdx@webtv.net.)

Coqsure is a social group for people who were assigned a female sex at birth but identify otherwise (female-to-male, genderqueer, drag king, etc.). First Sunday meetings are open to partners and families of any configuration. (503-471-1515. groups.yahoo.com/group/coqsure.)

50+ lesbian social group for women meets on the third Saturday of the month. (4-7 pm. 503-642-3360 or 503-286-3575.)

Fem2fem social group forming for feminine singles between 30 and 50. (fem2fempdx@yahoo.com.)

FTM Pacific NW OR & WA is a social and discussion group for female-to-male trans men. (groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM_PacificNW.)

Funny Ladies, a social group for nice lesbians 35 and older as well as their friends and loved ones, holds potlucks on the second Saturday of each month. (503-639-7488. flataps@yahoo.com.)

Genealogy group forming. Gather with other lesbian researchers to trace your family tree and tackle "brickwall" female ancestors. (famhistnw@aol.com.)

Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon is the oldest gay, lesbian, bi and trans social/fundraising organization in the state of Oregon. Meetings are the first two Mondays of each month. (www.rosecourt.org.)

Jewish Gay Men's Group—please call for meeting time and place. (503-246-5939. efrainlevi@aol.com.)

Keshet is a social connection group for queer Jews and their spouses, partners, significant others and good friends, whether Jewish or not. It meets monthly for potluck dinners and special events. (David 503-226-7079, ext. 14, or Mike 503-331-1111.)

Leather Night and Red Hanky Social are the first and third Friday of each month at Gail's Dirty Duck Tavern. (9 pm-midnight. 439 NW Third Ave. 503-224-8446. earl@leathercigarboy.com.)

Lesbians Enjoying Nature and Science (LENS) is a fun-loving group of women who enjoy exploring all aspects of the environment. Activities include bird watching, nature walks, archaeology, camping, kayaking, star gazing and an occasional "lecture." No experience necessary. (6:45-8:30 pm second Thursday planning meeting. Laurie 503-977-2903. lensnews@yahoo.com.)

Lesbian Garden Club is a group of women who love gardens and gardening. They exchange plants, seeds, advice and encouragement while having a good time. Call for a copy of the newsletter and information about upcoming events. (Linda 503-909-2002.)

Lesbians with Degrees is a social group for intellectual women and those who want to meet them. (Lani 503-233-3557. Join listserv at LesbianswDegrees-subscribe@yahoo.com.)

Lulu's Pervy Playhouse is a social group for self-identifying women who are into S/M. Play parties are held on the second Saturday of the month. (503-231-3992. dykedadi@comcast.net. www.lulus-pervyplayhouse.org.)

Men Over 40 is a small, socially supportive group that meets second and fourth Thursdays. (503-777-1376.)

Oregon Men Enjoying Naturism is a social organization for gay male naturists/nudists. Social gathering second Saturday of every month. (omenpdx@omenpdx.org. www.omenpdx.org.)

PDX_FTM is a social group for female-to-male trans men and their significant others, friends, families and allies. (groups.yahoo.com/group/PDX_FTM.)

PDX Lesbo Nerds invite interesting, intelligent women 35 and older to socialize while playing board games like Scrabble and Spades. (games.groups.yahoo.com/group/PdxLesboNerds.)

The gay **Pinocchio Group** meets Sundays at Hobo's. Come play cards and meet the gang. New players always welcome. (6 pm. 120 NW Third Ave. Mike 503-641-7224.)

Poder Latino is a nonprofit social community voice group for gay, lesbian, bi and trans people that reaches out to Latinos and Latinas by organizing events and retreats and advocating HIV prevention. Meets every other Monday at Outside In. (6:30 pm. 1030 SW 13th Ave. Hugo 503-997-8615 or Audencio 503-261-5463.)

Portland Bisexual Women is a discussion, social and support group for bi and questioning women. (503-347-5817. portlandbiwomen@comcast.net. www.portlandbiwomen.freesevers.com.)

Portland Leather Alliance is one of the largest pansexual, nonprofit B/D/S/M, leather and fetish lifestyle organizations in the Northwest. Regular social and educational opportunities, including KinkFest, Leather Ball, kind auctions and Fall Vendors Fair. (www.pdxleatheralliance.org.)

Portland Leather Men meet every second Saturday for potluck and socializing. Meet men into a leather lifestyle and keep abreast of leather happenings. No dues, no formal organization, no officers or board, just leather socialization for the past 21 years. (360-896-6665. plm@directway.com.)

Portland Metro Prime Timers is a social group for mature gay men and those who appreciate them, coming together for social, educational and cultural purposes. (PO Box 5884, Portland, OR 97228. 503-286-4613 or 360-693-5506. pdxprimetimers@yahoo.com. www.geocities.com/pdxprimetimers.)

Rainriders Motorcycle Club meets weekly at the Roxy. Ride your bike or just come meet the group. Everyone welcome. (10 am Sunday. 1121 SW Stark St. www.pdx-rmc.com.)

Rose City Discussion Club, the largest open pansexual/alternative sexuality club in the Northwest, is open to all orientations, fetishes and lifestyles that are safe, sane and consensual. Monthly meetings, workshops and newsletter. (503-972-1869. rcddc@teleport.com. www.rcddc.org.)

Soyboys Vegetarian Men's Group is a fun, social gathering for gay and bi men who are interested in a healthy vegetarian or vegan lifestyle. A variety of activities and monthly potlucks on the last Saturday. (veggieguys@aol.com.)

Women of the Rivers, the Portland/Vancouver chapter of the **Women on Wheels Motorcycle Club** meets monthly at Elmer's, sponsors riding clinics and takes day trips. (7:15 pm second Thursday. 9848 N Whitaker Road. www.hevanet.com/chama/vwow.)

Physical Recreation

Adventure Group organizes a variety of activities year round, including hiking, walking, cross-country and downhill skiing, rafting and mountain biking. (PO Box 2201, Portland, OR 97208-2201. www.adventuregroup.org.)

Amazon Dragons Paddling Club invites women 16 and older to join Portland's only out lesbian dragon boat team. Be part of the fun and fitness with this dynamic group. (www.amazondragons.org.)

The Forest Group outings are cooperative adventures for women. Participants are responsible for providing their own equipment and choosing outings appropriate for their skill and fitness level. All skill levels welcome. (Dawn and Tami 503-659-2782. ncc1127@yahoo.com. www.geocities.com/ncc1127/forestpdx.)

The Gay Women's Golf Group welcomes all levels of players. (www.turfgrlz.com.)

Lesbian Equestrian Group gets together for equestrian activities in the Pacific Northwest. (Denise 503-654-3865. Lynn 503-777-2339. kelrav@rdrop.com.)

National Gay Basketball League is forming a chapter in Portland to represent Oregon in the 2006 Gay Games. (www.ngba.us/portland/pdx.htm.)

Out Dancing teaches dancing for same-sex couples at Ankeny Street Studio. Classes for different

dance styles start the first Friday of each month: country, swing, tango, cha-cha, etc. Call for schedule. (503-236-5129. outdancing@yahoo.com. home.att.net/~outdancing.)

OutKayaking, Portland's gay and lesbian sea kayak group, explores the lakes, rivers and bays of Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington. (www.outkayaking.org.)

Pacific Coast Boating Club provides opportunities for gay and lesbian boaters to come together for fun on local rivers and promotes safe boating. (paccoastboatclub@comcast.net.)

Portland Avalanche rugby team is always seeking new players for practices Mondays and Wednesdays Jan. 30-May 17 at East Delta Park. (6:30-8:30 pm. 10737 N Union Court. 503-715-3122. www.avalancherugby.org.)

Portland Gay & Lesbian Community Bowling Association is in its 28th season! Meets Sundays at Hollywood Bowl. Drop-ins welcome anytime. (3:30 pm. 4030 NE Halsey St. Mailing address: PO Box 42034, Portland, OR 97242. 503-722-0438. pdxbowl@comcast.net. www.pdxbowl.com.)

Whether you're a running novice or a seasoned marathoner, **Portland Frontrunners** welcomes gay, lesbian, bi and trans people of all abilities and interests. (Gary info@portlandfrontrunners.org. www.portlandfrontrunners.org.)

Rosetown Ramblers, Portland's gay and lesbian square dance club, dances at mainstream and plus levels. (PO Box 5352, Portland, OR 97228-5352. www.rosetownramblers.com.)

Ruby Red Flippers, a group of gay and lesbian scuba divers in the Portland area, teaches new recruits and takes dives in Tacoma, Hood Canal and other Pacific Northwest waters. (rubymredflippers@yahoo.com. www.rubymredflippers.org.)

Team Oregon, the umbrella sports group coordinating efforts for Outgames 2006 in Montreal and Gay Games 2006 in Chicago, holds monthly meetings for those wanting to participate. (503-736-3292. www.teamoregon2006.org.)

Team Tennis meets Sundays at University of Portland. All levels of play welcome. First time is free, subsequent times are \$7. Please join us! (8 am-noon. 503-788-8192. teamportlandtennis@yahoo.com.)

YOUTH

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) is the only international organization specifically supporting young people with sexual minority parents. (colage@lmfamily.org. www.colage.org.)

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) strives to assure that every 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.)

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.)

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. (Austin 503-260-5792. austin@prideproject.org.)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) offers support, recreation, counseling and referral to gay, lesbian, bi and trans kids 23 and younger. Drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly trans, leadership and art support group meetings. (4-9 pm Wednesday. 4-11 pm Friday. 2100 SE Belmont St. 503-872-9664. www.smyrc.org.)

Just Out is published on the first and third Friday of every month. The deadline for submissions is 14 days prior to publication.

OutReach listings of up to 50 words are provided free of charge to organizations and groups specifically serving the sexual minorities community. All listings are subject to editing, and inclusion is subject to space limitations, relevance and receipt by deadline.

Listings expire once a year (in July), and submissions run from the date received until the next scheduled expiration date. Listings are automatically deleted upon expiration. To ensure uninterrupted listing, please submit updated information at least a month prior to the expiration date. Complete listings are available online at www.justout.com.

Send 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.

Skin Deep

How can I stop being so superficial?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm not very proud of myself; maybe you can give me some advice in overcoming a weakness of mine. Recently I met a nice woman I'll call "Jane" through an online ad. We talked on the phone several times and arranged to meet for coffee. Though I found her mind quite stimulating and we've since met a second time for dinner and a movie, I want to be her friend, not her girlfriend.

Recently, I received an e-mail from "Jane" declaring her strong romantic feelings for me. I've had my heart broken, so the last thing I want to do is hurt someone else. Still, I have only known this woman a few weeks and am not physically attracted to her. I'm not sure if I'm being shallow or if I'm turned off by how quickly she stated her affections.

I'm normally attracted to how a woman thinks and sees life, but I do admit to finding a feminine woman with good hygiene and self-maintenance a plus. Maybe I'm shallow, but I work hard to keep in shape and follow a healthy diet. I enjoy wearing makeup and bathing regularly. "Jane" doesn't take pains with her appearance, shows up in tattered, smelly clothes that haven't been washed recently and is very overweight.

It worries me that I can't get past how "Jane" looks. While I'm pretty sure it's just a lack of chemistry for me (and the fact that I stated in the personal ad I posted I was just looking for friendship right now), I have to wonder if I would be behaving differently if she looked more feminine and well-kept. If she just wanted to be friends, I would have no problems, but I can't picture myself wanting to be near her romantically. Causing her any kind of pain, though, would be even worse.

What is wrong with me? I truly want to believe that looks don't matter! How can I stop being so superficial?

—Trying to Look Beyond the Surface

DEAR TRYING TO LOOK BEYOND THE SURFACE:

Ms. Behavior is amused by You People who try to eliminate the reality of chemistry in your romantic choices. It's true that chemistry alone isn't enough to sustain a partnership, but the absence of sexual attraction often makes room for a slow drip-drip-drip of unfulfilled longing, which ultimately erodes the relationship.

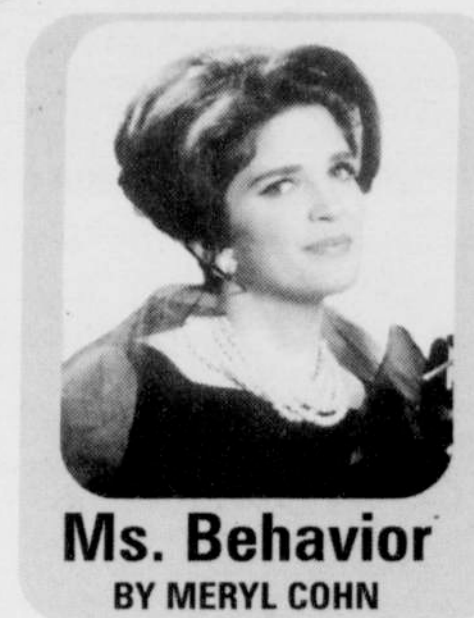
(This unfulfilled longing causes sadness and existential crises. It also often leaves the door open for a hot-but-ultimately-damaging affair with someone who has nothing to offer except chemistry, which suddenly becomes more important than oxygen; this distorts your values and causes you to leave work in the middle of the afternoon, drive to an area with good cell reception to make furtive phone calls and to walk around with your hair messed up and your underwear in your jacket pocket.)

Why do so many lesbians want to believe that looks and chemistry don't matter? Your politically correct lesbian foremothers forgot to tell you, but it's OK to want someone who stimulates you more than just mentally. It doesn't mean you're superficial or bad. It doesn't mean you deserve to live a lonely, loveless life. It just means you're realistic about your need for sexual attraction in a romantic relationship.

While it's nice to find the beauty in everyone, there isn't anything objectively spiritual about forcing yourself to get naked with someone you don't find attractive. Your senses determine your preferences about where to live and what to wear and what kind of food you like to eat. Your senses also determine what kind of face or body or scent or voice you respond to. Would a romantic relationship devoid of attraction actually make you feel like a more enlightened person? How about eating some rocks, too, and walking naked in the desert?

You can tell Jane how you feel without being unkind. Just be gentle, tell her you'd like to be friends, and please don't attribute your lack of interest to her chubbiness or insufficient hygiene. Being honest about your lack of interest is ultimately a lot kinder than trying to force yourself to have feelings and then dumping her later. 

MERYL COHN is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette*. Signed copies are available directly from the author. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.



Ms. Behavior
BY MERYL COHN