

COMPLETE SPIRITUALITY AND NONMETRO LISTINGS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.JUSTOUT.COM

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.pdxbad-girls.net.)

Border Riders Motorcycle Club provides social opportunities for gay men interested in recreational motorcycle touring and promotes education on safe and legal machinery. (503-281-4488. brmcprez@yahoo.com.)

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. (acbpportland@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.)

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/fund-raising 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. efraimlevi@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.)

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. (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.luluspervyplayhouse.org.)

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

Monomorous bi group forming for women in their 40s who are single and professionally employed. (monogirls06@yahoo.com.)

Night in Black Leather and The Leather Duck Club 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. orleatherfrat@yahoo.com.)

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 **Pinocle 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/pdx-primetimers.)

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-rrmc.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. rcdc@teleport.com. www.rcdc.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/wow.)

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. (503-772-1860. innoregon@comcast.net. www.geocities.com/ncc1127/forestpdx.)

Gay Women's Golf Group welcomes all levels of players. (www.turfgirlz.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 practices at Chief Joseph Elementary School in preparation to represent Oregon in the 2006 Gay Games. (7-15-9:30 pm Monday. 2409 N Saratoga St. edmundgaines@msn.com.)

Net Rippers is a gay men's indoor soccer team that's just starting up in Portland. (bendoverbeckham@gmail.com. www.myspace.com/netrippers.)

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. out_dancing@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 Tuesdays and Thursdays through 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. (rubbyredflippers@yahoo.com. www.rubbyredflippers.org.)

Soccer players capable of participating in 2006 Gay Games July 15-22 in Chicago sought for adult league in Portland. (Carlos 503-282-4907. gaygames_soccer@myway.com.)

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 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.)

House of MOCHA (Men of Color Healthy & Aware) is a group of gay/bi/same-gender-loving men of color between 16 and 25 who want to engage in activities, socials and community events among their peers. (Kourtnei 503-417-7991. www.brotobropdx.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.)

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), PO 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.

Teen and Trans

Should Billy be taking female hormones at the age of 14?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm a 33-year-old gay man. My best friend, Wanda, has a 14-year-old son, Billy, who she believes is gay. Wanda talks to me about Billy because I've known him his whole life and because she assumes I'll understand him.

Recently, Billy told Wanda about his wish to be female; apparently he has felt this way for a couple of years. Wanda immediately hooked him up with female hormones and is now talking about helping him have sex reassignment surgery. The boy is 14 years old! I'm not sure what the rush is or why Wanda is so eager to embrace surgery without investigating the alternatives (e.g., therapy). Adolescence is a time of experimentation, and I'm concerned that this is all happening too fast. What if Billy's feelings pass? Sexual reassignment surgery is life-changing and uncorrectable.

I feel sick about the whole thing, but I'm afraid that if I express my worries, Wanda will cut me off. She often interprets my concern as criticism and sometimes gets belligerent when I express an opinion that conflicts with hers. Should I say it anyway, because I care about Billy? Or should I keep my feelings to myself to protect my friendship with Wanda?

—Tim

DEAR TIM:

It's true that adolescents are sometime impulsive and that cutting off one's penis is a much larger decision than, say, tattooing a buttock or piercing a nipple. One would hope that any ethical surgeon in this country specializing in sex reassignment surgery would adhere to the Standards of Care for gender-dysphoric patients. These guidelines require that the patient is at least 18, is undergoing psychotherapy and has had at least 12 months of hormone therapy and 12 months of continuous full-time real-life experience in his/her new gender. These guidelines should address most of your concerns about Billy rushing toward a new identity as a whim.

Ms. Behavior hopes Wanda's motivation is her son's happiness, as opposed to desire to cultivate a newfangled hobby. (Whatever happened to day trading, orchid growing or dog breeding as suitable ventures for parents anticipating empty-nest syndrome?) Wanda's eagerness to move things along for Billy might well be a desire to help him avoid suffering. If Billy is indeed transgender (as opposed to going through a phase, as you suggest), starting hormones early will make his transition easier and ultimately result in a more feminine appearance.

Your relationship with Wanda sounds precarious. If you can't express your concerns without Wanda cutting you off, your friendship with Wanda is rooted in quicksand. Still, why hold back? If you're going to test your friendship by saying what you think, you might as well do it now, while something big is at stake (Billy's penis and gender identity), as opposed to later, over something more trivial.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My girlfriend, Kerry, and I are committed to one another and both approaching 40. Kerry really wants a baby. I used to want a family, too, but during the past couple of years I've stopped thinking about having a child because I have lupus and often feel too debilitated to even care for myself and our three cats.

Kerry says she would do most of the work in caring for a baby, but I'm afraid it would put pressure on our relationship. At the same time, I don't want Kerry to be deprived of something she wants. Neither of us will say anything definitive; I'm afraid to discuss it at all. I'd almost rather just wait until it's too late. What should we do?

—Baby Quandary

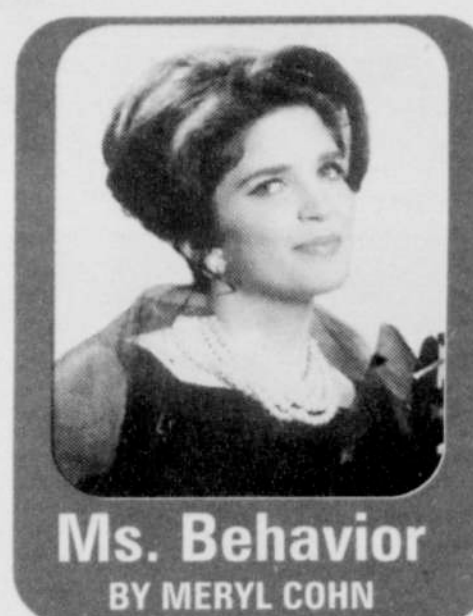
DEAR BABY QUANDARY:

Yikes. Many women in their late 30s find that their biological clocks have turned into time bombs, so it makes sense that this has come up for you and Kerry now. The decision is difficult anyway, but even more so if you're ill.

It's time to address the baby issue clearly and directly, so you and Kerry don't wake up at 50 and realize you forgot to spawn. Consciously discussing the issue is the best way to figure out if it's realistic to have a child, in spite of your physical limitations. Do you have the financial resources to pay for part-time child care? Do either of you have nearby family members who might sometimes help?

Try to approach the discussion as openly and compassionately as possible; don't skip over discussing the reasons it sometimes feels too difficult. If you decide together not to have a child—rather than just waiting until it's too late—there's less risk that you'll feel unhappy later on. Discussing this courageously will help you reach the right decision and will keep resentments from taking over and eating your relationship. **jo**

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

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