

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

professional, in Washington, Oregon and southern British Columbia. Dinner meetings in Portland area. (503-701-7922. castflyers@yahoo.com. www.geocities.com/castflyers.)

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.)

Monamorous 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 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 Lesbian Book Club gathers monthly to chat about a chosen book or to attend selected events. (6:30 pm third Tuesday. groups.yahoo.com/group/portlandlesbianbookclub.)

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. 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. imnregion@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@drop.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. www.ngba.us.)

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. (paccostboatclub@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. (rubyredflippers@yahoo.com. www.rubyredflippers.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@imfamily.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 Short End of the Stick

Online dating profiles offend

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I have used various gay online dating sites, but my opinion about them has recently changed. I read a profile that stated: "No Fats, No Fems, No Twinks, No Short Guys." I have read similar lines hundreds of times, but this was the first time I read a profile that automatically rejected me because of my height. (I'm 5-foot-5.) I was really bothered by that.

Then I realized that these statements are generally offensive! I started reading dozens of similar profiles, offensive in almost every category: age, stature, body hair, and, yes, even the big one...RACE!

As members of the GLBT community, we endure so much daily discrimination that it's shocking to see this discrimination within ourselves. Do people's Internet profiles expose the negative side of who they truly are? In a real-world situation, no one would dream of saying, "Sorry, NO FATS" if an overweight gentleman bought them a drink. Why would people think it is inoffensive to write it?

Ms. Behavior, I defer to your knowledge: Is there proper online profile etiquette that you can recommend?

—E-World Frustrated

DEAR E-WORLD FRUSTRATED:

Finally, a short man awakens! Maybe if you hadn't been personally insulted by the "No Shorties" restriction, you'd still be happily answering offensive ads, oblivious to the plight of fatties, twinks and people who encounter racial biases. That's how discrimination is kept in place; you don't mind until it affects you.

Personal ads are impersonal and dehumanizing; you don't generally have to face someone and say, "Sorry, Chubs" or "Bug Off, Gorilla Hands." Also, in personal ads, people prioritize efficiency over sensitivity. It might be just as easy to delete a response from someone whose picture shows that they are "too short" or "too hairy," but it's not the culture. Ms. Behavior receives dozens of letters about this issue; her advice for online profiles is pretty simple: Don't say anything in an ad that you'd consider too rude to say directly in a face-to-face meeting.

If you're placing an ad, specify preferences in a more sensitive way by focusing on desired attributes. For instance, "GSM seeks Tall, Slim, Manly Gladiator for Sex and Love." Doesn't that sound better than "No Fatties, No Nellys, No Dwarves"?

Sometimes a trait is just a trait. If you love red hair or big noses, such preferences appear to be neutral. But if you love big dicks, are you discriminating against little ones? Maybe so, but little ones apparently have their fans, too.

Race is trickier. Although some argue that preference for skin color is as benign as a desire for any particular attribute, we live in a racist culture, which requires more sensitivity. While it's true that Caucasian isn't always the race being sought, some personal ad writers do sound like they're building an Aryan army. It's one thing to target a particular type but still preferable not to sound like a member of Hitler Youth. On the other hand, if an ad writer reveals himself to be an ignorant pig, you might be spared from wasting your time.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My girlfriend and I moved into a nice house on a nice street in a lesbian-friendly town. The problem is that the houses are close together, and a few times lately we've caught the older woman who lives next door looking in our window (from her window). We've begun to pull down the shades, and we never speak to her when we see her, but we feel like prisoners in our own home.

Is there something we can do about this, other than living in darkness? Should we try talking to her?

—Neighborly Jane

DEAR NEIGHBORLY JANE:

If you lived in an urban setting, you'd be used to having to make the unfortunate choice between light and privacy. Keep your blinds open in an apartment building and you'll witness your neighbors cooking, exercising, fighting and felling each other. The down side (for some) is that they'll watch you doing the same things.

Small-town life obviously has some privacy snags, too. Short of living in the woods, with only bear and deer to watch you, your options are limited. Talking to your neighbor probably won't prove useful; she'll deny that she peeps.

One solution might be hanging some sheer curtains, which would give your neighbor less to look at (perhaps only silhouettes), without completely obscuring your sunlight. A more aggressive tactic might be for you and your girlfriend to put on a show for your neighbor, kissing and grinding and exposing various body parts, with the hope of frightening her and displacing her from her window perch. (This, of course, could backfire if your neighbor—or other neighbors—happen to enjoy it.) **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

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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 on July 1, and submissions 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.