

Creative Connection (formerly Real Connection) is a social gathering for gay men who are artists, writers or musicians or who pursue 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.)

Foreign Film Group meets every second and fourth Sunday to screen foreign films at various venues, followed by a group discussion. (pdxgayfilm@yahoo.com.)

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. Directed by Ray Elliot, a talented and experienced leader. New members welcome to rehearsals at Ainsworth United Church of Christ on an open enrollment through fall 2006. (6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday. 2941 NE Ainsworth St. 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.)

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. brncpre@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.)

Dungeon Men PDX hosts a men's S/M party every other month in a Portland dungeon. Masters and novices always welcome. (503-281-2076. bighnboy@aracnet.com.)

F.A.G. PDX (Femme Affinity Group Portland), a radical activist and social group open to self-identified femmes of all genders, seeks to create solidarity among femmes, promote femme visibility and combat femmophobia in the community at large. (www.notsorry.org/fagpdx.)

50+ lesbian social group for women meets on the third Saturday of the month. (4-7 pm. 503-642-3360 or 503-288-1870. sutaytig@aol.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. (flataps@yahoo.com.)

Gay Men Who Have Lost Their Partners meets at the West Cafe to provide an opportunity for conversation and socializing. The death need not have occurred recently. (7:30 pm second Wednesday. 1201 SW Jefferson St. 503-701-9376.)

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

Happy Ours Productions is a grassroots group dedicated to building the visibility, community participation and collective leadership of lesbian women of color through a wide variety of social, networking, consciousness-raising and action-oriented activities, events and projects. (www.happyoursproductions.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. 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.)

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 that was started for degreed women, but no degree is necessary. Just come and join the fun! Pool parties, Scrabble and more. (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.)

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.)

The gay **Pinochle 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 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. pim@direcway.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 Lesbian Network organizes brewpub visits, golf events, hiking, kayaking, cycling, Scrabble games and movie nights and keeps you aware of what's going on in the area. (PDXLesbianNetwork-subscribe@yahoogroups.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. rcdc@teleport.com. www.rcdc.org.)

Sappho Social Club is a group of women 40 years and older building community through social and cultural activities. (thesapphosocialclub@yahoo.com.)

Social OUTings is a social group for all interested in meeting people and doing activities other than bar-hopping. (kyleinportland@yahoo.com.)

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.womenoftherivers.org.)

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. immoregon@comcast.net. www.geocities.com/ncc1127/forestpdx.)

Gay Men's Walking Group invites gay, bi and questioning men to stroll in various neighborhoods around Portland for fun, friendship and exercise. (10 am Saturday. Tom 503-984-4549.)

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

Lesbian Equestrian Group gets together for equestrian activities in the Pacific Northwest. (Denise 503-654-3865. Lynn 503-772-2339. kehrav@rdrop.com.)

Net Rippers is a gay men's indoor soccer team. (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.)

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.)

Join the **Rose City Softball Association**, Oregon's largest gay sports organization, for open and women's divisions of slow-pitch softball. Regular season games are played throughout the summer at Gordon Faber Recreational Complex in Hillsboro. All levels of experience are welcome. (4450 NW 229th Ave. www.rosecitysoftball.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.)

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. (Kourtini 503-417-7991. www.brotobrodpdx.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.)

Mommie Dearest

Clingy boyfriend missed out on a key stage in development

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I was dating a young man named Alan for about a year. He was approximately 16 years younger than I am and just embarking on his life as an adult. He was wise, witty and charming.

The problem came with his mother, who he wished to include in nearly every event, holiday, dinner out or drive to the beach. He kept saying he "really" wanted me to love his mother. She was fine. Alan, on the other hand, was clingy.

Ultimately, we parted ways, but he has insisted that he wishes to be friends. We have attempted to do so, but I find him to be incredibly hostile toward me now. This is puzzling, as our parting was amicable, and I thought becoming friends would be a no-brainer.

Can you shed any light? Do I have to put up with hostility to be this young man's friend? Is there some way to reason him out of it?

—Mr. J



DEAR MR. J:

Alan wanted you to love his mother because he hadn't yet broken away from her. Since he missed out on an important developmental stage—separation and individuation—Mommy is still very primary in his life. Normally, adolescents go through this stage (which is when their parents become morons who don't know anything) and rebel and act out. Unfortunately, as a teenager, Alan probably remained loving and couldn't understand why his friends thought their parents sucked.

Ultimately, his attempt to skip over this crucial step means that he still doesn't know how to separate successfully. So it makes sense that breaking away from you involves a lot of hostility. He's still practicing for splitting from his mother. It might help you to know that it's not personal. You can't reason with him; you might just have to take a step back from your friendship until he grows up a bit.

What's the take-home message for you? You'll probably find that you're more likely to have a successful relationship with someone a little closer to your own age, Daddy.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

"Suzie" is my longtime friend; we've always been close and confided in each other. Two years ago, my partner and I got married and moved 20 miles away from the town where Suzie and I lived. For a while, Suzie and I did well with maintaining our friendship.

However, during the past year our time together has become less frequent. When I try to make plans, I can't get an answer from Suzie; usually she wants to wait and see if she can squeeze me in. I think she takes our friendship for granted.

During the time we do spend together, Suzie—who is straight—obsesses about the gay men in her life and her relationship (or maybe desire for one) with them. She wants to draw me into her conflict about that, but I don't think I have anything left to add to that dialogue.

The thought of this friendship ending is very sad to me, but I am not sure where else we can go. The question is do I talk about the fact that I no longer want her as a friend? Do I need to "officially" end the friendship? Or do I just let it go?

—Roxie

DEAR ROXIE:

If you were a dude, particularly a straight dude, the answer would be easy. You'd just let the friendship wither away until the problem took care of itself and there was nothing left to clean up. But because you're a lesbian, you err on the side of "processing." You're genetically compelled to at least consider hashing it all out. And because you're trying to be conscious about it, as opposed to letting the friendship just rot like a pile of compost, you have choices to make.

The big question is whether you feel there's anything left in your friendship that's worth saving. Given your long friendship history, if you still have any shred of desire to be friends, there's no harm in having a conversation about what's been difficult for each of you. It will probably be clarifying in some way.

If you really feel it's over, you still don't need to have a conversation to "officially" end the friendship. This isn't a breakup. Sometimes friends drift apart but still manage to stay in one another's lives in a less constant way, and there's no reason to eliminate that option just because you're feeling hurt right now.

You want to tie this friendship in a neat little package and toss it away because you feel uncomfortable about not knowing how things will evolve. But sometimes it's better to sit quietly and wait: The tide comes in. The tide goes out, Little Grasshopper. ☺

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.

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

Listings expire once a year or 30 days, and submissions are final. The date is important. The only solution to an expiration date is to stop 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 14300, Portland, OR 97293-0300. For submission info, 503-246-7257. Use a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope, and please do not expect to receive a return envelope.

Business inquiries should be accepted via the phone. Please type your announcements and include full contact information.