

SOCIAL

Arts & Music

Confluence: The Willamette Valley Mixed GALA Chorus rehearses Sundays at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. (4-6:30 pm. 5090 Center St. NE. 503-364-2370. confluence@aol.com. www.confluencechorus.org.)

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. (pdxgrayfilm@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 non-profit 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. apl_g_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. 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. (factportland@webtv.net.)

Cosure 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/cosure.)

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/faggdx.)

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

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. JoinListserve@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 **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.)

Podar 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 Audencia 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. 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 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@yahoo.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.turfgrlz.com.)

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

Net Rippers is a gay men's indoor soccer team that's just starting up in Portland. (bandoverbeckham@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. 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.)

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. pdxbowling@comcast.net. www.pdxbowling.com.)

Portland Gay Basketball Association practices at Tubman Middle School. All skill levels welcome! (7:30-9:30 pm Monday. 2231 N Flint Ave. pdxgayhoops@yahoo.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.)

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.)

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. teamporlandtennis@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. (Kourtni 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.)

Panty Raid

I stole my straight friend's underwear. Does that make me a pervert?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Today I helped a straight friend and his girlfriend move out of his apartment. I've known him for a year, and we get along great. He knows that I'm gay and have desire for him, although I'm pretty sure nothing will come of it.

I was in the moving truck while he was up in the apartment with his girlfriend getting more boxes, and sitting there were his dresser drawers, with his underwear sitting in one of them. I was there, they were there, it seemed like the thing to do at the time, so I snagged a pair.

I've no intention of wearing the underwear or putting them in a shrine—I just threw them into a drawer. I have never pulled anything like that before and really don't fall under the "stalker" category. (I'm actually pretty boring.) But roughly, how far over the "good Lord you sick perverted freak" line did I go?

—Boxers Guy



Ms. Behavior
BY MERYL COHN

DEAR BOXERS GUY:

You're a bad boy! You're a sneak and a thief and a pervert. (You like that, don't you?) How much of a freak you are depends on what you plan to do next. You've ruled out creating a shrine, but do you plan to start a panty collection? Take them out of the drawer on special occasions to caress them? Jerk off on them and return them to your friend in an anonymous package?

Perhaps not. You've implied that they'll sit safely in your drawer, merely an innocent reminder of your crush on the straight boy. In fact, aside from the thievery part, your little prank was sweet and wholesome: Opportunity knocked, you were alone with the goods, and you stuffed your straight friend's undies into your pocket (or perhaps down your pants), just like anyone else would have. Of course, it might have been more satisfying to snatch dirty skivvies from your friend's hamper, but you made the tasteful choice to steal the fresh, clean boxers from his dresser instead.

It's best not to be judgmental about such matters. Who knows what he or she would do given a similar opportunity? For example, Ms. Behavior couldn't honestly guess what would happen if she were granted a moment alone with, say, Kate Winslet's panty drawer.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I would like to know when a ban will be placed on divorce. I have come to the conclusion that society can't make any more of a joke on marriage than they have done for years. Sure, you can get married as many times as you like—just take a couple of classes at a Roman Catholic Church, and you are a shoe-in for your fifth marriage.

I believe if you feel secure about your marriage and the one you love, placing a ban on divorce would not bother you. I look at it this way: Are you that clueless that your relationship before marriage might be rocky or abusive? Are you that clueless that you have feelings for the same sex? Wouldn't a ban or control on divorce make individuals a little more selective on whom they chose as a mate? Maybe if people knew their decision was permanent, they'd actually mean " 'til death do us part." Maybe someone would be there to catch them if they actually wanted to find ways to get rid of their partner.

—Debbie

DEAR DEBBIE:

Perhaps your mail got waylaid on its way to a Christian fundamentalist advice columnist. Didn't you realize that Ms. Behavior usually answers letters from queers, who generally do "have feelings for the same sex," one of the problems you warn about in your letter?

But never mind that; because your missive has arrived in Ms. Behavior's box, she'll treat it as she would any other. Your suggestion for a ban on divorce is more than a little bossy and misguided and wrongheaded. Such a ban would presume that everyone who got married was in his or her right mind and that his or her partner or circumstance would not change in any negative way. Have you not lived long enough to witness things that are seamy or just plain gross? What would you do if your partner started shooting drugs or having sex with prostitutes and refused to stop? What would you do if he realized he wanted to have sex with your brother and not you?

Unless you can find a way to abolish drunken marriage or people who choose their mates for the wrong reason, and unless you can single-handedly eradicate the possibility that a seemingly normal partner can turn into a lunatic overnight, you're just going to have to live with people getting divorced all around you. The real question is, Why does it bother you so much? 10

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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