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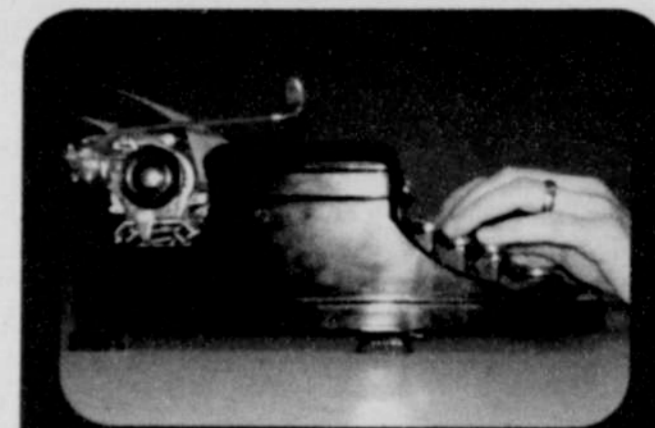
Home Sweet Homeshare

Living the adult dream, circa 21st century

When you are young and imagine your future life of coupledness, you might picture yourself and your lover living in a house with a white picket fence and a dog.

But rarely do you fantasize that when you grow up and find that special someone you will be sharing a household with him or her and another adult of random origin. This brings us to the modern condition of city living. More and more, adult home sharing is becoming the only realistic way for people to "get by" in popular American cities. Finding a third (or more) wheel to live with in this situation is a challenge for a couple who may or may not have already figured out their own groove. For a gay couple, this situation could be trickier to establish.

The wife and I decided to stop paying rent around the time our landlord insisted that he wasn't selling our place, even though people were showing up at our door asking to take a look around. I had been paying rent for 13 years, and the thought of investing all that money in a place of my own became very appealing. But the dream took a turn when, after we found a charming, affordable place, we realized we needed to rent out a bedroom to make the monthly mortgage. Serendipity—a natural resource in Portland—brought about the arrival of a good friend from out of state looking for a place

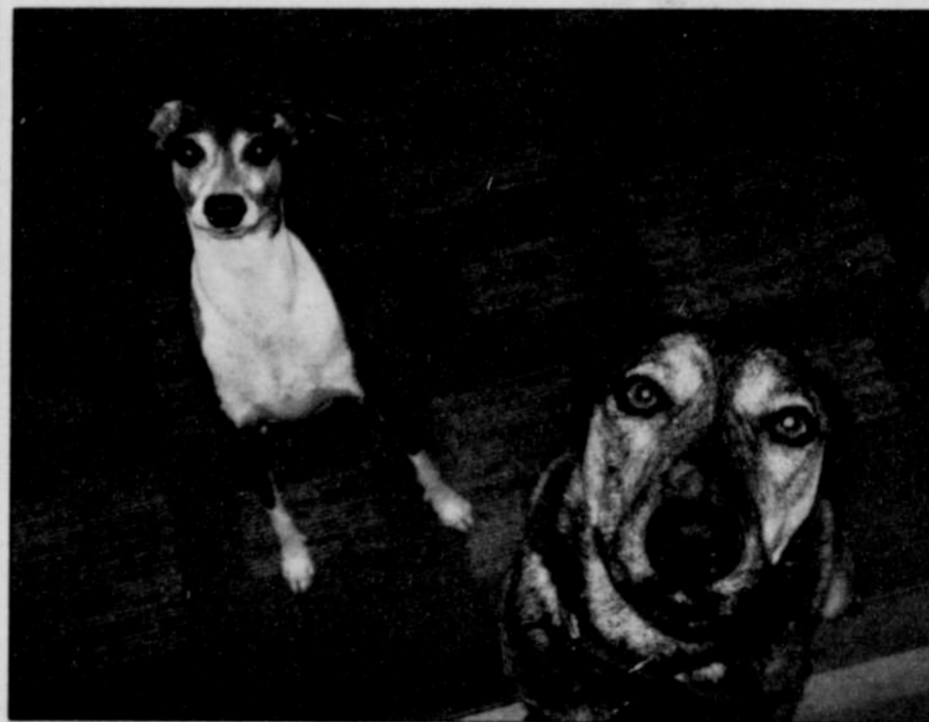


Out of My Mind
BY MALKA GEFFEN

living with a straight girl, but another dyke in the place just seemed the way to go.

After a week or two of responses from 18-year-old straight boys, we modified our minimum age to 21. One had a girlfriend living in a nearby college dorm, which translated to "There will be two of us living with you, thanks." Another claimed his queer-friendliness with a simple "I lived in San Francisco." We did meet a few nice women (straight and queer) who thought we lived too far out. Another handful of respondents set up times to meet and never showed.

We changed our ad once again to include our home's location and a request that all interested parties Google the hell out of it before responding.



Our lesbian dog has a boyfriend.

We also put up a photo of the room, the house and our adorable dog. This brought another round of e-mails, including one that surprised us. After getting our hopes up and dashed over women who couldn't commit (sounds like my early 20s!), we found ourselves reading an e-mail from a straight guy with a dog. The only other guy we had seriously considered up to this point was a trans dude from Massachusetts who wouldn't be arriving in Portland for another

month. This guy admitted to not fitting our ad's description (he had a pet after all) but assured us he'd be a perfect fit. Intrigued—and a little desperate at the tail end of the month—we invited him and his pooch over.

The guy is quiet, sweet and a bit of a loner. The dog—an Italian greyhound half the size of our basic brown mutt—presented as very friendly. So friendly, in fact, he greeted our little girl with some futile mounting and humping that didn't annoy her as much as it annoyed her lesbian moms. Seeing a bare-chested man in my home will take some getting used to, and no longer will I be able to stumble downstairs in my skivvies to pee in the middle of the night. But having this particular straight male energy around is like a touch of cayenne in our lesbian household stew. With each new day of this arrangement, I watch the dogs play and thank the stars we were "gay, but not narrow." 10

MALKA GEFFEN has plenty of room in her head. Fill it by e-mailing malkageffen@gmail.com.