

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, led by talented artistic director Ray Elliot, strives for musical excellence and making fun-filled harmonies and is open and welcoming to all women. Nonaudition rehearsals for the 2007-2008 season begin Sept. 19 at Ainsworth United Church of Christ. Solo and small-group opportunities abound. (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.)

Bookwomen is a lesbian discussion group that meets monthly to share stories, favorite authors, top 10 lists and opinions and reviews of the assigned book. (503-684-0305. mikkata@comcast.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. (jacportland@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 971-216-1173. sutayrig@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. (flatpdx@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 "brickwall" 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. eframilevi@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.lulusperveryplayhouse.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 **Pinechle 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 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@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@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. (veggieguy@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.womenontherivers.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.)

Fits Bowling invites you to come join this fun, friendly, alternative league at AMF Pro 300 Lanes. (7 pm Friday. 3031 SE Powell Blvd. 503-234-0237.)

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/forestdx.)

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. keirav@rdrop.com.)

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.)

PDX Pride Bowling League is recruiting for fun games Friday nights September through April. (info@pdxpridebowl.com.)

PDX NetRippers is Portland's queer soccer organization with competitive indoor soccer, outdoor scrimmages, practices for all levels and regional tournaments. (Kyle bendoverbeck ham@gmail.com. www.myspace.com/netrippers.)

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.)

Portland Gay Basketball Association welcomes all skill levels. (groups.yahoo.com/group/PortlandGayBasketballAssociation.)

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.rose townramblers.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.)

She Rocks, a supportive rock climbing group for lesbians 18 and older, organizes year-round climbing and training events chosen according to skill level. Monthly meetings are held at Bagdad Pub. (6:30-7:30 pm second Thursday. 3702 SE Hawthorne Blvd. www.sherocks.wetpaint.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.brotbrodpdx.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.)

Queerzone identifies and meets the needs of queer homeless youth by providing advocacy, safety, support, resources, referral and a safe place for them to socialize and get the help they need. (6-8 pm Monday, New Avenues for Youth, 812 SW 10th Ave. 6-8 pm Tuesday, Outside In, 1132 SW 13th Ave. 4-11 pm Saturday, Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, 2100 SE Belmont St.)

Leather Etiquette

Is it proper to use a harness from a prior relationship?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

As a true Southern girl, proper etiquette is always on my mind. I have been dating a wonderful woman for the past two months, and we have progressed to the point in our relationship that discussions of the mutual joys of a strap-on have been addressed.

I purchased a lovely leather harness and dildo at the end of my previous relationship, hoping to liven things up. I have always been one to toss the toys with the girl, so the previous girl and the dildo are gone, but in this case can I keep the barely broken-in, beautiful leather harness? Please?



—Harmlessly Harnessed in G'town

DEAR HARMLESSLY HARNESSED IN G'TOWN:

Does your new girlfriend object to the old harness? If so, you might have to comply with her wishes and ditch the vestiges of your last relationship for the sake of a clear and holy sexual union. But if you can't afford to replace the lovely item, you might argue that you each have the same body and mouth and fingers that you had in prior relationships and have each managed to purify these with soap and toothpaste.

Or, here's another idea: When Jewish people who keep kosher make a mistake by mixing their meat utensils with their dairy utensils, they remedy the problem through a procedure called hagalah, which means purging. This is a complicated practice, requiring immersion of the compromised objects in a Kosher Mikveh (a holy pool of water) especially made for utensils or in a natural ocean, lake or river. Once you pull the utensil out of the water, *Voilà!* It's kosher. Perhaps the same principles could be applied to your harness, even if you're not Jewish. (Of course, water isn't good for leather, so perhaps you could put the harness in a waterproof bag before dunking it.)

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm a woman, and my boyfriend and I are both bi and progressive. We're mostly monogamous, except that we realize two things: I don't have a dick and he doesn't have a pussy, so it's OK for us to have sex with others of the same gender as long as we let the other know.

Anyway, this chick on Craigslist responded to my ad for friends with benefits. We seemed to have a lot in common, and we were attracted to each other. She had never been with a woman and was curious. After chatting for an hour, she said she had to go. An hour later she sent me a message saying, "I want you so bad, but I think you might be too young for me." I'm 18, and she is only two years older than me. I thought that was weird.

The next day we're talking again and she's horny and wants me to talk dirty. I did, and she really, really liked it. Then she mentions me being too young for her again. Then she says she wants to meet me. We go through the steps of arranging a time and a place, just to chat and make sure we weren't pervy men. Then, she suddenly does a 180 and says I'm not experienced enough for her. What is that supposed to mean? She's the one who had never been with a woman before, and yet I'm not experienced enough for her? Then she tells me to send her a message when I turn 21 and blocks me.

My question is, what the hell was all that about? I even asked one of my lesbian friends, and she said it didn't make any sense to her, either. Could you possibly translate that into normal human communication? Was I being forward, or is she just crazy?

—Thinking I Should Just Be Straight

DEAR THINKING I SHOULD JUST BE STRAIGHT:

You can't really expect online conversation to be "normal human communication." Your negative experience wasn't specific to lesbian behavior; it was specific to the limitations of e-mail. The only thing that seems "crazy" is the expectation that you can know someone based on what they say to you online.

There are many possible explanations for what happened. Your "chick" could have been, as you pointed out, a man. "She" could have been enticing you with promises of meeting in a nearby public place, while "she" was in fact jerking off in a dingy basement on another continent. She might have been 70, not 20. Perhaps she's an inmate who's allowed to use the computer for 60-minute increments. Maybe she's a Martian. You can't know someone you've met online—no matter how heartfelt their e-mails seem—until you meet face to face and witness their actual behavior, not just their emoticons. 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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OutReach listings (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 or exclusion to space limitations. Revisions accepted by e-mail.

Listings expire on the second Friday after submission, except for the "Just Out" section.

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 ads to: Just Out (attn: Classifieds), PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97241-0400. Fax submissions to: 503-237-1137. e-mail: justout@justout.com. Submissions will be accepted over the phone. Please type, print, and e-mail your ads to: justout@justout.com.