

# Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

## Girlfriend exhibits symptoms of Butch Conquest Behavior



**Ms. Behavior**  
BY MERYL COHN

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My girlfriend, Molly, and I are breaking up but still living together (in separate bedrooms) until our lease is up next month. We've tried to break up six previous times. She usually dumps me until she feels lonely and wants me back.

This time the breakup was my idea, and it's having a strange effect on Molly. She climbs into my bed in the morning and cuddles with me and then wants to have sex. I've given in to it twice, and it hasn't made me feel good. My friends think she's just doing it to prove that she can have me anytime she wants. They also say the relationship was abusive.

When we're together, Molly takes me for granted, criticizes me and makes me feel unattractive. But if I muster up the courage to let go, she comes at me with her butch charm and wants me more than ever. I want to get out of the relationship, but I'm afraid I'll stay. How can I get her to let me go?

—Too Easy

DEAR TOO EASY:

Molly is exhibiting Butch Conquest Behavior, which occurs when butches switch from feeling relieved and free because the relationship is ending to feeling abandoned because you're OK with it. The key to successful disentangling is for you to stay as neutral as possible. Stay out of intense conversations, but don't become mean or dismissive, because you'll only juice her up into some weird seductive state.

If she feels rejected or humiliated, or if she can tell that you're happy to be moving on with your life, she'll try to "bond" by cuddling and fucking. Emphasize that the breakup is mutual and that you're joined in a healthy goal. If you can each manage to feel that you're not being rejected or abandoned, you'll be able to part without causing each other a lot of pain.

Since your tendency is to relent, try to move before your lease is up, even if you have to move your stuff into storage and stay with a friend. The temptation to be warm and cozy with Molly, leading to confusing and mediocre sex, will probably subside once you're out of her reach.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

You are the wisest and most fair advice columnist in the world, and whatever your decision, I will accept it. My boyfriend of 17 years invited a friend (W) and one of our employees whom we are also friends with (K) to have a birthday slumber party for W. He did this without mentioning it to me.

When I heard the plans from K, I complained and my boyfriend immediately told K it was off, which made it look like I was being a bitch. So I told him to go ahead and have them over. Then he invited W to sleep in my office rather than downstairs with K (in a separate bed).

But my office is private. So I said I don't want anyone sleeping in my office. My boyfriend thinks I was a bitch and doesn't think he put me in that position by inviting our friends into my space without talking to me about it first.

By the way, having friends over unannounced is never a problem for me (sleeping over is OK, too, if it just happens), but unannounced visitors and even phone calls almost always annoy my BF.

So my question is: How do I stop looking like a bitch next to my good-time boyfriend? Or am I just truly a bitch?

—Bitchy Bitch Bitch

DEAR BITCHY BITCH BITCH:

If guests in your office really bug you, buy a sofa bed for your living room and request that it become the official sleeping spot for guests. Or you could do what kids in comic strips do with their clubhouses: Post a sign on your office door that says, "Keep Out and That Means You."

Often when there's a recurring argument in a relationship, the content of the argument doesn't matter; it's about each person wanting to be "right" or in control. Your boyfriend feels that you're rigid, and you feel that he doesn't listen or consider your feelings. This makes it unclear whether you're actually bitchy or just chronically annoyed by a lack of consideration.

When an issue comes up repeatedly in your relationship, ask yourself if the issue at stake really matters to you. If it does, try talking about the underlying issue—e.g., that you feel ignored or disrespected—instead of just bickering.

Of course, if when you say "slumber party," you really mean "orgy," there may be a whole other set of issues that Ms. Behavior hasn't addressed. **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](mailto:msbehavior@aol.com).

**Portland Lesbian Choir**, a nonaudition community women's chorus, encourages women of any musical skill level to participate in its 21st season of singing, skill building and socializing, led by dynamic director Ray Elliot. Rehearsals take place at Ainsworth United Church of Christ. (6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday, 2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-727-3306. [portlandlesbianchoir@hotmail.com](http://portlandlesbianchoir@hotmail.com). [www.plchoir.org](http://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](mailto:info@rcgfb.org). [www.rcgfb.org](http://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. (503-242-4244. [www.satorichorus.org](http://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. [aplg\\_pdx@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.pdxbadgirls.net).)

**Bisexual Community Forum** is a space to meet people and freely discuss issues relevant to the bi community at 3 Friends Coffeehouse. Everyone is welcome. (7:30 pm first Monday, 201 SE 12th Ave. Laury 503-285-4848.)

**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. [mkkata@comcast.net](mailto:mkkata@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. [brcmprez@yahoo.com](mailto:brcmprez@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. [castflyers@yahoo.com](mailto:castflyers@yahoo.com). [www.geocities.com/castflyers](http://www.geocities.com/castflyers).)

**A Common Bond** is a social support network for former or questioning Jehovah's Witnesses who are queer. ([acbporthland@webtv.net](mailto:acbporthland@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](http://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. [highboy@aracnet.com](mailto:highboy@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](http://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. [sutaytig@aol.com](mailto:sutaytig@aol.com).)

**ETM Pacific NW DR & WA** is a social and discussion group for female-to-male trans men. ([groups.yahoo.com/group/ETM\\_PacificNW](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ETM_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](mailto: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 "brickwall" female ancestors. ([famhistnw@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.rosecourt.org).)

**Jewish Gay Men's Group**—please call for meeting time and place. (503-246-5939. [efraimlevi@aol.com](mailto: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. [Joinlistserv@LesbianswDegrees-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Joinlistserv@LesbianswDegrees-subscribe@yahoo.com).)

**Lulu's Perky 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](mailto:dykedadi@comcast.net). [www.lulusperkyplayhouse.org](http://www.lulusperkyplayhouse.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. [orleathertr@yahoo.com](mailto:orleathertr@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](mailto:omenpdx@omenpdx.org). [www.omenpdx.org](http://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](http://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.)

**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 Audencio 503-261-5463.)

**Polyamory Circle** is a gathering for folks exploring options beyond monogamy. Discussions include open relationships, extended families and intentional communities. Everyone is welcome. (7:30 pm third Monday, Laury 503-285-4848.)

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pdxprimetimers@yahoo.com). [www.geocities.com/pdxprimetimers](http://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](http://www.pdx-rmc.com).)

**Rose City Discussion Club**, the largest and oldest open pansexual/alternative sexuality club in the Northwest, is open to all orientations, fetishes and lifestyles that are safe, sane and consensual. Monthly meetings, social, workshops and newsletter. ([rcdc@teleport.com](mailto:rcdc@teleport.com). [www.rcdc.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:veggieguys@aol.com).)

Women of the Rivers, the Portland/Vancouver chapter of **Women on Wheels Motorcycle International**, encourages women who love to ride to gather for good times, support and growth in the sport through social meetings, professional seminars, rider training and organized and pickup rides. Monthly meetings at MacTarnahan's Taproom. (6:30 pm second Thursday, 2730 NW 31st Ave. [www.womenoftherivers.org](http://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](http://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](http://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. [imnoregon@comcast.net](mailto:imnoregon@comcast.net). [www.geocities.com/ncc11271/forestdpx](http://www.geocities.com/ncc11271/forestdpx).)

**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](http://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](mailto:ketrav@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](mailto:out_dancing@yahoo.com). [home.att.net/~outdancing](http://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](http://www.outkayaking.org).)

**PDX Pride Bowling League** is recruiting for fun games Friday nights September through April. ([info@pdxpridebowl.com](mailto: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 bendover [beckham@gmail.com](mailto:beckham@gmail.com). [www.myspace.com/netrippers](http://www.myspace.com/netrippers).)

**Portland Gay & Lesbian Bowling Association** celebrates 30 years with its 2007-08 season. Meets Sundays from Labor Day through Memorial Day at Hollywood Bowl. Drop-ins welcome anytime. (3:30 pm. 4030 NE Halsey St. Mailing address: PO Box 42034, Portland, OR 97232. 503-693-6281. [pdxbowl@yahoo.com](mailto:pdxbowl@yahoo.com). [www.pdxbowl.com](http://www.pdxbowl.com).)

**Portland Gay Basketball Association** welcomes all skill levels. ([groups.yahoo.com/group/PortlandGayBasketballAssociation](http://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. ([Garyinfo@portlandfrontrunners.org](mailto:Garyinfo@portlandfrontrunners.org). [www.portlandfrontrunners.org](http://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](http://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](http://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. ([rubbyredflippers@yahoo.com](mailto:rubbyredflippers@yahoo.com). [www.rubbyredflippers.org](http://www.rubbyredflippers.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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:colage@imfamily.org). [www.colage.org](http://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](http://glsen@glsenoregon.org). [www.glsenoregon.org](http://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](http://www.brotobropdx.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](mailto: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](http://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.)

**Just Out** is published on the first and third Friday of every month. The deadline for submissions is 14 days prior to publication. **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 run from the date received until the next scheduled expiration date. Listings are automatically deleted upon expiration. To ensure uninterrupted listings, please submit updated information at least a month prior to the expiration date. Complete listings are available online at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). Send listings to [JustOut@tmr.com](mailto:JustOut@tmr.com). Calendar: PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400. Fax submissions to 503-236-1257 or e-mail [justout@tmr.com](mailto:justout@tmr.com). Submissions cannot be accepted over the phone. Please type your announcements and include full contact information.