

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. (pdgxfilm@yahoo.com.)

Portland Gay Men's Chorus is open to singers, support members and volunteers. (503-226-2588. www.pdgmcc.org.)

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 interim director Casey Moffett-Chaney. 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. 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. (503-242-4244. www.satori-chorus.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. bmcprez@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. (jacobportland@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 femmephobia in the community at large. (www.not-sorry.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.)

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. Join listserv at Lesbian-swDegrees-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.luluspervypayhouse.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.)

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. 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 was established as a social group for older gay men as well as younger men who enjoy their company. Meetings include potluck meals, dining out, bingo and celebrations of special occasions. (PO Box 5884, Portland, OR 97228. 360-254-1718 or 503-286-4613. 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 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. 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.)

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.)

Tuesday Twilight Tastings meets for casual tast-

ings of fine wines and inspired food at West Cafe. (6-8 pm third Tuesday. 1201 SW Jefferson St. RSVP to 503-784-4807 or 503-227-8189.)

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 MacTamaha's Taproom. (6:30 pm second Thursday. 2730 NW 31st Ave. 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.adventure-group.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/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.turfgirlz.com.)

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

PDX NetRippers is Portland's queer soccer organization with competitive indoor soccer, outdoor scrimmages, practices for all levels and regional tournaments. (Kyle bendoverbeckham@gmail.com. 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. 503-693-6261. pdxbowl@yahoo.com. 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. (Gayinfo@portlandfrontrunners.org. www.portlandfrontrunners.org.)

Rose City Softball Association is Oregon's largest sports organization for the gay and lesbian community. With open and women's divisions at all levels, RCSA plays slow-pitch softball games on most Sundays throughout the summer at Gordon Faber Recreational Complex in Hillsboro. Join a team or form a new one! (4450 NW 229th Ave. membership@rosecitysoftball.org. 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.)

She Rocks, a supportive rock climbing group for lesbians 18 and older, organizes year-round climbing and traiging 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 Oregon, the umbrella sports group coordinating efforts for Outgames 2006 in Montreal and Gay Games 2006 in Chicago, holds monthly meetings for those wanting to participate. (503-736-3292. www.teamoregon2006.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. teamportlandtennis@yahoo.com.)

On the Nose

Cologne-loving friends irk couple. What to do?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My girlfriend, Julie, and I have become close with a couple, Greg and Steven, who have a penchant for heavy cologne. As a happy queer foursome, we hang out together, see movies and dine out all the time. For a while, Julie and I just joked and hinted about the whole perfume business, then finally we came out and asked them if they could please not bathe in a bottle of Polo on nights when they are going to see us. (Julie is seriously allergic to fragrance, and I'm no big fan, either; it gives me an instant headache.)

For a few dates, the boys were compliant, but lately I've noticed that one of them (Greg) is sneaking it back in. I brought it up and he said it must be his shampoo, but last night we went to the movies and I was choking again from his eau d' whatever. What can we do, since we still plan to spend time that involves being trapped in cars, restaurants and movie theaters with them?

—Sensitive

DEAR SENSITIVE:

Some people are brainwashed into believing that they need to cover their naturally sweet and salty delicate body scents with a petroleum-based neurotoxin in order to smell appealing. Such fans of dramatic potions don't understand that their bottled fragrance is literally sickening to some of their friends and acquaintances.

For those who don't experience symptoms in the presence of odors, it might be difficult to understand how extreme the effect can be. Greg and Steven probably didn't get it when you first told them you couldn't tolerate their cologne; they might have assumed that you just didn't like the scent. Short of hosing them down before you go out with them, you don't have many options other than trying one more time to let them know how you're affected. Sit down with them and let Julie tell them the gritty details of the symptoms she experiences when they wear their cologne. (Symptoms may include migraine, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, shortness of breath, difficulty concentrating and even anaphylaxis, according to Ms. Behavior's quick search.)

Hopefully, Greg and Steven will get it this time and be willing to go out sans cologne. If not, it doesn't bode well for the prospect of your friendship. Those who don't ultimately believe an experience unless they've had it themselves are generally narcissists, lacking in empathy. If this is the case with Greg and Steven, you might need to find better-smelling (or at least more compassionate) friends.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My partner, Chuck, and I recently moved to a little community where most inhabitants are straight working-class people. We were fortunate enough to meet another gay man here (I'll call him Alan) who is very interesting, sophisticated and lovely. The only problem is that his aging parents also live in this community, and he is not out to them. It's clear that his parents are a big part of his life.

Whenever we are with him and we bump into his parents, he makes up some elaborate excuse about what he is doing with us. Last time, he told his parents we were interested in buying his car. This is all very strange because it is hard to believe his parents don't know. They're not that old and not that stupid.

Chuck wants to say something to Alan about the ridiculousness of the charade, but I'm afraid it will put him off, and we don't have many friends in this town. On the other hand, we're not so interested in escapades from the closet. Any advice?

—Mr. Peebles and Chuck

DEAR MR. PEEBLES AND CHUCK:

Given that you and Chuck are more evolved than Alan is, perhaps you can extend the gay hand of self-love—in this instance, Ms. Behavior is not referring to masturbation—to Alan and his parents, which might lead to a healing of their homophobia. You'll be the emissaries of happy homosexuality, acting as GAY! as possible when you see Alan's parents. (While Alan might complain if you outed him, he can't expect you to pretend to be straight for his parents, right?)

So, curtsy and kiss them twice on each cheek. Pick Alan up and twirl him around like an ice skater. Invite Alan and his parents over for a *Cabaret* sing-along. If you're charming enough, they might ultimately join you in recognizing and celebrating their gay son's lovely and interesting life. 

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.



Ms. Behavior
BY MERYL COHN

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Readers' letters, tips, and comments are provided free of charge to organizations and individuals who contribute to the sexual-minorities community. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and brevity. Letters, photos, and other materials received by deadline will be published. Letters received after the deadline will be held in a file and may be published at a later date. Letters are not returned. Letters are not published if they are abusive, defamatory, or contain libelous or obscene content.

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