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. *(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, 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.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. *(acbportland@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.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.)*

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 LesbianswDegrees-subscribe@yahoogroups.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 **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.)*

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@yahoogroups.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.)*

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 tastings 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 MacTarnahan'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.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. imnoregon@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@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 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. *(Gary info@portlandfrontrunners.org. www.portlandfrontrunners.org.)*

Rose City Softball Assoc iation 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 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 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.)*

Off the (Meat) Rack

Middle-aged single guy wonders how to find a mate outside the "bar scene"

Ms. Behavior
BY MERYL COHN

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Thank you for so much good advice. My question relates to dating and age. I lived in Chicago in the '90s and had a toxic relationship that lasted for seven years. I am now much happier back in my hometown.

After nearly 12 years of celibacy, I am ready and looking at potential friends/partners; however, I don't do the "bar scene." Having worked in some notorious establishments for nine years, I don't have any interest in the whole cruising "meat rack."

I am 44, and the last time I went to a bar, I saw no one smile, no one greeted me, and I was rebuffed by nearly everyone with whom I tried to strike up a conversation, offer a beverage or ask to play pool or darts. I am of the opinion that the bars are for a generation or two younger then I am, and the whole body image thing just goes over my head. I am happy with how I look and know that, if I find someone who loves me for me, body image is second to the spirit and mind of the one you love. I have so much to share; I just don't know where Mr. Aujourd'hui is.

—*Pax (Still Looking After All These Years)*

DEAR PAX:

It's true that some bars cater to cruising 25-year-olds, and you might feel like an invisible middle-aged chaperone in such a place. But others, like piano bars or gay sports bars, often tend toward an older clientele. Still, if bars in general feel torturous for to you, you needn't go there. You're best off trying to meet people in a venue that's within your comfort zone.

You can be most specific about who you're looking for if you place a personal ad or answer one that seems suitable (e.g., "GM with shoe fetish looking for sensual shopping mate"). You can also try looking in your local gay newspaper for events that sound like they'd draw people you'd find interesting: queer water skiing, gay furniture building, homo sushi making. Most likely, plenty of other gay men enjoy whatever it is that you like to do. Join some local gay online groups organized around activities like reading or watching sports. If you make an effort to reach out gayly, you can surely find a nice man who likes to garden or knit or fish or fist. If you can't find a social group that appeals to you, place an ad in the paper and start one.

Still, if you're rebuffed by literally everyone, there might be something too aggressive or otherwise off-putting about your approach. Do you have a friend who could attend a social event with you, act as your wingman, then give an honest assessment about your technique for meeting people? Sometimes small things, like talking too close or too loud, or seeming too desperate, can make people shy away.

It's great if you can find someone who loves you for who you are and not for how you look, but please make sure you don't have any stray nose hair or earwax that could act as a deterrent.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I read with interest your column every two weeks. "Mystified" inquired a month or two back about why all dykes are rude to men ["Dykes Hate Men," Dec. 21, 2007]. Now I read the comment from "P.B." telling you that are "clueless" and scolding you for accusing Mystified of being misogynistic ["Out of Control," March 7]. I quite agree that Mystified's inquiry was narrow-minded. Not all dykes hate men or are in a bad moods. There are a wide variety of people on earth with a wide variety of personalities.

You all but apologized to P.B. and agreed that dykes are "unnecessarily rude to all men" and thanked him for his "wisdom and enlightenment." I hope you were being sarcastic. Mystified and P.B.'s statements are inexcusable, no better than saying that all black people are troublemakers or Latinos are lazy. Such statements and the people who spew them should not be tolerated. We are supposed to be a community of acceptance.

The people who wrote in are probably living a self-fulfilling prophecy by looking for only the bad characteristics of dykes they meet. There are as many good-natured lesbians as rude ones, and the same goes for gay men and for anyone who belongs to the human race. Obviously, these two do not belong to the latter.

—*Bill T.*

DEAR BILL T.:

Ms. Behavior appreciates your earnest response. She knows many charming and delightful lesbians and does not need to be convinced of their goodness. She was gently ridiculing the second troglodyte (P.B.), who seemed to actually believe that lesbians as a species are innately rude. Perhaps Ms. Behavior was too gentle, since you missed the joke.

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.*